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GUN WORLD

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TOMMY GUN TALES

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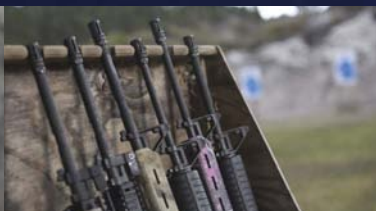
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FEATURES

8 SHOT Show New Product Section

14 Bulk Up and Ready to Rumble

Dan Coonan re-launched his pistol brand in 2009 with the full-size Coonan Classic model, and he has been working to meet demand for the pistols ever since.

By Mike Dickerson

54 Laser Maximized Rifle

A Ruger 10/22 carbine with an onboard LaserMax laser makes this popular rifle more accurate than ever.

By Dave Workman

90 Wild West Shotguns

Thanks to Century Arms, we can step back to the Old West with two amazing reproductions of select era shotguns.

By Jerry Catania

24 Ruger Redefines Rimfires

Ruger's new and improved Charger pistol is available in a Standard model and a Takedown version, and both feature laminate stocks and are built on the 10/22 action.

By Dave Workman

34 High-Value Asset

Browning's A-Bolt 3 may be inexpensive, but it's not a cheap gun. It has all the features you'd expect from a high-quality rifle with a price tag almost anyone can afford.

By Brad Fitzpatrick

44 Tommy Gun Tales

In 1916, General John T. Thompson developed a small automatic rifle better suited to trench warfare. Nearly a century later, our own Mr. Thompson highlights the SMG's colorful history.

By Leroy Thompson



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COLUMNS



Photo by Mike Dickerson

- 6 Up Front**
– Craig Hodgkins
- 64 Today's Hunter**
– Thomas C. Tabor
- 70 Reload**
– James E. House
- 76 Handguns**
– Dave Workman
- 82 Gunsmithing**
– Steve Sieberts
- 98 Back Pages:**
– Craig Hodgkins

14



ON THE COVER:
Photograph by
Mike Dickerson
Cover design by Johann
Frederick Mendoza

SHOT *Thots*

By Craig Hodgkins

Yes, I was at the 2015 SHOT Show, and yes, I am going to write about it here. Now that we have that out of the way, we can all move on.

My biggest takeaway from this iteration of SHOT? I would love to have a cut of the tactical pants concession. Each year, more and more attendees seem to figure out that supplemental pocket space means increased capacity for the acquisition and transportation of SHOT Show Swag.

Now if we can only get a ban on those rolling milk crates.

In addition to decking myself out in khaki, my attempt to blend in more successfully with the taupe trouser crowd entailed another tactical decision. The choice? Shave my head or grow a beard.

That may have been the easiest decision I made this month. Because even though I have been experiencing the law of diminishing follicle returns for more than a decade, my philosophy remains: as long as hair is growing on my head, people will know it.

I grew a beard.

Still, for me, SHOT is much

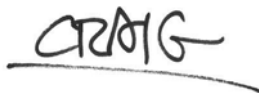
more than a crazy cacophony of product launches and press conferences. It's about relationships. It is the one show where I can catch up with the majority of the writers who work so hard to produce quality content for this magazine and so many others, and it is a great place to connect with new talent.

It's the best opportunity to support our sales team by joining them for a few of their daily dozens of "speed dating" calls on current and potential advertisers.

It's often the one time of year that I am able to talk face to face with company representatives rather than adding one more message to their voicemail or inbox. I can check up on their families, relax over lunch, and make sure they're on top of any potential "transitions" in this occasionally unpredictable marketplace. And if a move has occurred, SHOT is a great place to find out who has landed where.

Perhaps most importantly, I can see who else has grown a beard.

I hope to see you at next year's SHOT Show, unless you're pulling one of those rolling milk crates. Because if you are, I'm staying clear.


GUN WORLD
IN SOCIAL MEDIA:

Website: www.GunWorld.com
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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief: Craig Hodgkins
Associate Editor: Lee Boyd
Managing Editor: Mark Heisser
Senior Creative Director: Eric Knaggs
Art Director: Johann Frederick Mendoza

CONTRIBUTORS

Todd Burgreen, Jerry Catania, Mike Dickerson, Brad Fitzpatrick, Paul Hantke, James House, Jameson Parker, D.K. Pridgen, John Raguso, Steve Sieberts, Dave Spaulding, Tom Tabor, Chuck Taylor, Leroy Thompson, Martin Topper, Dave Workman

ADVERTISING

Gabe Frimmel: Ad Sales Director
(714) 200-1930 GFrimmel@engagedmediainc.com
Casey Clifford: Senior Account Executive
(717) 896-8956
Mark Pack: Senior Account Executive
(714) 200-1939
Jennifer Merriday: Ad Traffic Coordinator

DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

John Bartulin (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746
Paul Caca (866) 866-5146 ext. 4961
Ryan Lauro (866) 866-5146 ext. 2756
Mary Ann Jaca (866) 866-5146 ext. 2716

OPERATIONS

Gus Alonzo: Newsstand Sales & Marketing Manager
Celia Merriday: Newsstand Analyst
Mohit Patel: Newsstand & Production Analyst
Alberto Chavez: Senior Logistics & Facilities Manager
John Cabral: Creative Graphic Designer

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, #200
Yorba Linda, CA 92687
(714) 939-9991
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Nick Singh: Executive Director
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SHOT Show Eye-Catchers

By Gun World Contributors

The Gun World gang recently descended on Las Vegas to test the latest stuff. Here are a dozen quick peeks to get your wish list started.

GEAR & GADGETS

* V-Line Slide-Away

V-Line, the venerable maker of security cases and cabinets, has long been known for producing sturdy products of fabricated steel with mechanical locks that allow quick and easy access without relying on batteries or keys. The raised, mechanical push-button locks with clutch knobs (and easy-to-change combinations) are an instantly recognizable V-Line feature.

The newest offering is the heavy-duty "Slide-Away" security case, designed to be mounted beneath a desk, table or shelf. It can also be mounted beneath some vehicle seats. To open it, you simply hit the raised buttons in the sequence you set, turn the knob, and a spring-assisted, ball-bearing sliding drawer rolls out for easy access. The slider has a 100-pound load rating. The entire unit, made of 12 gauge steel, weighs 20 pounds. It features an oversized lock block with a brass deadbolt. The exterior is coated in textured black powder coating, and the interior is foam-lined to protect valuables. Measuring 10 x 12 x 3.5 inches, the case will easily accommodate a couple of pistols. MSRP is \$299.

- Mike Dickerson



V-Line's Slide-Away security case. (V-Line photo)

* Leupold's New D-EVO: Red Dot and 6X Scope Combo

Leupold announced its new D-EVO at this year's SHOT Show. This remarkable optic has solved the problems caused by co-mounting a red dot sight and a scope on the same AR-style rifle. Traditionally red dots have been mounted on top of tactical scopes. This makes using both sights time consuming and can have serious consequences. With a traditional setup the shooter must move their head to switch between sights, temporarily losing track of the target. Mounting the red dot over the scope also greatly increases the hold offset. Instead of aiming 3 inches high, you have to aim five inches high to correctly place your shot when using when using a top-mounted dot at CQB distances.

Leupold's D-EVO (Dual Enhanced View Optic) fixes these problems by radically changing the shape the scope so that the red dot mounts directly in front and just above the scope's eyepiece. You find the target with the red dot and shoot if it's at close range. If it's far away, just look down like you're wearing bifocals and you're on target with a 6X scope that has a CMR-W reticle with built in elevation holdovers out to 600 yards and windage holds for 10- and 20-mph crosswinds. What could be easier?

MSRP for both the scope and red dot is \$2,999, but the scope and red dot can also be purchased separately. Visit Leupold.com for more information.

- Dr. Martin D. Topper



The ruggedly built D-EVO is shorter and wider than a standard optic. (Dr. Martin D. Topper photo)

* Kestrel Sportsman

If you want to take the guesswork out of making long shots, take a look at the new Kestrel Sportsman ballistics weather meter. This pocket-sized, waterproof, dustproof and MilSpec drop-tested unit combines real-time environmental monitoring with a ballistics solver from Applied Ballistics, providing accurate shooting solutions out to 800 yards. The unit measures a host of environmental conditions, including wind speed, wind direction, crosswind, temperature, humidity, barometric pressure and density altitude.

You can select either G1 or G7 ballistic co-

efficients when calculating trajectory, and the unit will store up to 16 personalized gun-and-bullet combinations. The Sportsman meter comes in an olive drab color with a carry pouch and neck lanyard, and has a MSRP of \$429.00. When purchased with the optional Spotter Pack, you'll get a tripod-mountable vane mount, a Kestrel Companion App for remote viewing of your shooting solution from your shooting position on your Android device and wireless Bluetooth data transfer for firmware upgrades.

- Mike Dickerson



Kestrel's Sportsman ballistic weather meter can help take the guesswork out of distance shooting. (Kestrel photo)

* Witt Machine Mosin Nagant Muzzle Brake

If you're one of the untold masses that snagged a Mosin Nagant rifle at super affordable prices and are taking advantage of the fact that the 7.62x54mm Russian round is still one of the cheapest .30 caliber rounds to shoot, then you might want to take a look at the muzzle brakes from Witt Machine.

These lightweight brakes clamp onto your Mosin without altering the gun in any way, preserving the historical value of the piece. They're CNC machined out of 7075-T651 Aluminum and then coated in a matte black Type III hardcoat anodized finish that compliments the Nagant's bluing nicely. Witt had demo models available to try at Industry Day at the Range during SHOT and they insisted that you shoot a Mosin without their brake, and then immediately shoot again with their brake installed. It's a great sales pitch because the difference when shooting them side-by-side is dramatic.

They also make a version for the Nagant M44 carbine (known for its even more vigorous muzzle blast and recoil). MSRP is \$85 for the 91/30 model and \$89 for the M44 model. Visit WittMachine.net for more details.

- Tim Stetzer



Witt Machine's muzzle brake (attached, bottom) for the Mosin Nagant. (Tim Stetzer photo)

* SilencerCo.

One of the longest lines at Industry Day at the Range seemed to be the group of scribes, camerapersons and other curious parties waiting to take a turn at the SilencerCo. tent. The Utah-based company has developed a devoted and enthusiastic following by making quality products, living out their mission and taking on existing anti-can laws in a bold and direct manner.

My personal favorite among their products was the Salvo 12, which the company describes as "the only commercially-viable, modular, hearing safe shotgun silencer on the market." It earns the modular moniker because it comes in 6-, 8-, 10- and 12-inch configurations that easily enable smoothbore owners to customize it for everything from home defense and sporting clays to turkey and waterfowl hunting. The Salvo 12 is designed to operate with most semi-automatic and pump action shotguns, and is rated for wadded shells up to 3 inches, including buckshot and slugs.

The Salvo 12 attaches to numerous styles and brands of guns (the list includes Remington, Mossberg, Benelli, Beretta and Browning styles) through a variety of choke mounts. The mounts and rod kit adapters are sold separately and are available in improved cylinder, modified, improved modified and full. MSRP for the main unit is \$1,400.

- Craig Hodgkins



The Salvo 12 from SilencerCo. (SilencerCo. photo)

AMMUNITION

* Barnes Ammunition

Barnes expanded its product line significantly this year with several new introductions that will be well received by shooters. The new Barnes Range AR ammunition, for example, is priced for affordable high-volume practice and training. The lower price results from the use of a lead-free, copper-jacketed, zinc core OTFB (open tip flat base) bullet. Range AR ammo will initially be offered in 5.56mm 52-gr. and 300 AAC Blackout 90-gr. loads. Another newcomer is Barnes' Precision Match ammunition, which is directly descended from ammo Barnes supplies to elite special operations forces.

The rounds, which are loaded with match-grade OTM bullets that have long boat tails and high ballistic coefficients, have low standard deviations and variations. The ammo will be available in 5.56-45 NATO 69-gr., .308 Win. 175-gr., .300 Win. Mag. 220-gr., and .338 Lapua Mag. 300-gr. loads. There are also a number of new additions to Barnes' VOR-TX line of rifle and handgun ammunition. Rifle additions include 5.56mm 62-gr. and 70-gr. TSX loads, a .300 AAC Blackout 120-gr. TAC-TX load and a .338 Lapua 280-gr. LRX round. The newest entry into the VOR-TX handgun lineup is a 10mm load using a 155-gr. all-copper XPB bullet, which should find favor with handgun hunters thanks to its excellent penetration and weight retention characteristics. The 10mm joins a lineup that now includes XPB bullets in .357 Mag., .41 Rem. Mag., .44 Mag., .45 Colt and .454 Casull.

- Mike Dickerson



The new Range AR ammo from Barnes. (Barnes photo)

* UTM Civilian Target Ammunition: Live-Fire Practice at Home

Ultimate Training Munitions demonstrated their new Civilian Target Ammunition at the SHOT Show. You won't have to fight city traffic driving to the gun range to shoot it, because this load is designed for home use. The first load is designed for AR-15s and will be in .223 Rem. This ammo is lead free and fires an ultra-light plastic-tipped projectile that leaves the barrel at only 375 fps. The complete kit comes with a replacement AR-15 bolt, a magazine, cleaning gear and UTM's target holder designed to be placed over a safe backstop like a windowless wall.

This new ammo uses the same technology that UTM uses when making training ammo for law enforcement. The round contains no powder and uses two primers to generate recoil and launch the bullet from the bore. The base primer is an unleaded .22 rimfire primer in a crimped .22 case. When it detonates, it creates a small amount of gas that causes the rear of the cartridge case to extend and cycle the bolt. The rear primer also pushes a plastic ball forward in the case. It detonates a second boxer-style primer that sends the bullet down the bore. Groups average about 2 inches at 25 yards.

Civilian Target Ammunition will soon be available in 9mm. and .308 Win. Visit UltimateTrainingAmmunition.com for details and MSRP.

- Dr. Martin D. Topper

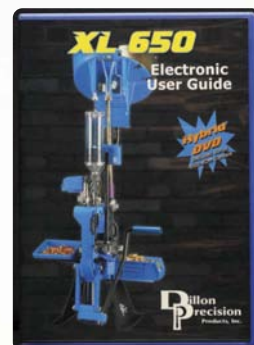


These cutaways show the construction of UTM's two-primer ignition system. Left to right: .223 Rem, 9mm, and .308 Win. (Dr. Martin D. Topper photo)

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* Winchester Deer Season XP

Bullet technology has evolved considerably in the last 20 years, resulting in improved terminal performance over traditional cup-and-core bullets. Many now hunt large game with premium ammo in smaller calibers that would have been unthinkable not so long ago, but you don't need such "wonder bullets" for deer hunting. Deer have been harvested cleanly with traditional bullets since their invention. That fact, combined with the rising cost of ammo, has led many deer hunters back to traditional ammunition, and ammo makers have responded by marketing more affordable ammunition directly to deer hunters.

Winchester's newest entry in this category is Deer Season XP, which the company says is "the first and only Winchester bullet designed specifically for deer." The bullet combines a swaged lead core with a radically larger polymer tip, called the Extreme Point, to initiate expansion immediately upon impact. The theory behind this larger "impact diameter" is that the bullet will transfer more energy to the target and deliver rapid knockdown power. Deer Season XP is initially being offered in a variety of bullet weights in .243 Win., .270 Win., .270 WSM, 7mm Rem. Mag., .308 Win., .30-06 Springfield, .300 Win. Mag. and .300 WSM.

- Mike Dickerson



Winchester's Deer Season XP. (Winchester photo)

* Federal Premium Upgrades A Trio of Hunting Cartridges

At this year's SHOT Show, Federal has upgraded three cartridges that hunters have used for years to bag turkey, deer, boar and black bear. Each optimizes performance, improving chances of a quick, clean kill, and some promote compliance with environmental regulations.

3rd DEGREE 3-inch 12 gauge Turkey Load: The new 3rd DEGREE load has a triplex shot load of #6 nickel-plated FLITESTOPPER Lead, #5 copper-plated lead and #7 HEAVYWEIGHT tungsten-iron pellets. The #6s spread wide for close-in birds, the #5s are for medium-range shots and the #7s ensure clean kills beyond 40 yards. A FLITECONTROL wad ensures consistent patterns.

Vital Shok Copper .30-30 Win.: This load's polymer-tipped 150-gr. copper hollow point expands quickly and penetrates deeply. Its nickel-plated case promotes positive extraction.

Vital Shok High Density 2.75-inch 12 gauge Buckshot: Leaving the muzzle at 1600 fps, the nine tungsten alloy pellets in this load's FLITECONTROL wad ensure tight groups and deep penetration for hunting hogs, deer and similar-sized big game.

For MSRP and further information, visit FederalPremium.com.

- Dr. Martin D. Topper



Federal Premium 3rd DEGREE 3-inch 12 gauge magnum cartridges have a triplex shot load. (Dr. Martin D. Topper photo)

GUNS

* Kingston Armory .22 M1 Garand and M1A

Two of the more interesting .22's to pop up at the SHOT show were the Garand and M1A from Kingston Armory. While mechanically sharing some similarities with the ubiquitous 10/22, and using a modified 10/22 magazine, these are not just simple shells or stock kits for your existing carbine. These guns are precision built from 4140 steel, and outfitted with beautiful walnut stocks from Boyds. The guns are full scale and mimic the weight and balance of their .30 caliber counterparts.

Sights are the same as the full power rifles and they'll take any sort of match sights designed for the M1 or M1A. So whether you want an understudy to your CMP gun for practice, love the historical aspect to the rifles but don't want to pay .30 caliber prices to shoot them, or would love to just take your M1 to your local indoor range to plink, the Kingston Armory has you covered. MSRP is listed at \$699 for either model and the all-steel and walnut rifles are 100% made in the USA. For more information, visit KingstonArmory.com.

- Tim Stetzer



The .22 M1 Garand and M1A from Kingston Armory. (Tim Stetzer photo)



* Beretta's M9 A3 Tactical Upgrade

Beretta's M9 service pistol came to this year's SHOT Show with a brand new set of tactical features. In the 20 years since the M9

replaced the M1911, Americans have learned a great deal about tactical engagements in crowded urban areas. This experience led to the development of new techniques for running pistols in combat and has produced a number of innovations in pistol design and add-on accessories. The new M9A3 has been modified to accommodate many of them.

These features include a reduction of the grip's circumference to reduce trigger reach for small-handed shooters. Shooters with larger hands can install an optional large grip that covers the back strap. The A3 also has a flat earth Cerakote finish, a lengthened barrel that's threaded to accept a suppressor and high-profile night sights that provide a clear sight picture when a suppressor is installed. In addition it has two decocker options (option one engages a safety, the other does not), a sand-resistant magazine and an accessory rail on the dust cover for mounting a tactical light, a laser or a light/laser combination. All of these features allow the user to modify the gun for their individual needs, as well as the needs of specific tactical missions.

For further information and MSRP, visit Beretta.com.

- Dr. Martin D. Topper

The Beretta M9A3 functioned flawlessly in rapid fire at the SHOT Show, and comes fully equipped with a light. (Dr. Martin D. Topper photo)



* Century Arms TP9 SA

Century Arms has a new version of their Turkish produced TP9 pistol, the TP9 SA. This well-built polymer frame auto uses a short, crisp single-action trigger with an integral safety like many other polymer autos. It pairs that with a decocking button on the slide that allows you to drop the striker safely and carry the pistol in Condition 2 (round in the chamber, "hammer"

down) if so desired. Simply retracting the slide slightly recocks the pistol when needed.

Gun World had a chance to shoot the pistol at Industry Day, and it's impressive. Ergonomics are very good and the trigger is crisp with a short reset. The polymer frame pistol weighs in at a modest 1.3 pounds, but still packs a 4.47-inch barrel and an impressive 18-round magazine capacity. It's listed at an extremely affordable \$399 MSRP and ships with two Mec-Gar magazines, a polymer holster with both belt and paddle attachments, two interchangeable back straps and a hard case. For more information, visit CenturyArms.com.

- Tim Stetzer

The TP9 pistol from Century Arms. (Tim Stetzer photo)

Bulked Up and **READY** to **RUMBLE**

Text & Photos by Mike Dickerson

.357 Magnum Punch with 1911 Style

As a graduate student at Mankato University in 1976, Dan Coonan and his roommate regularly debated the relative merits of a 1911 .45 ACP versus a .357 Magnum revolver. To settle the score, both parties agreed to a shootout, with the winner being the first to put 12 rounds in the target.

The Coonan Compact, chambered for the potent .357 Mag., incorporates some of the best design features of the timeless 1911 and the influential Browning Hi Power.







▲ The author liked the pistol's extended thumb safety, which fell naturally under the thumb and required firm pressure to disengage, making it less likely to "rob off" when the pistol is carried cocked and locked.

"With the auto, I just waxed him," says Coonan. The roommate conceded the tactical superiority of the 1911 .45, but argued that the .357 Mag. delivered superior ballistics.

"You should get a .357 auto," he told Coonan.

"They don't make one," Coonan replied.

Dan Coonan went on to earn six college credits for creating a .357 Mag. magazine, frame and barrel. That success led him to start his own company to make the original Coonan 357 pistol. Coonan eventually sold the company, and it subsequently folded under the new owners.

Dan re-launched his Coonan pistol brand in 2009 with the full-size Coonan Classic model, and he has been working to meet demand for the pistols ever since. With the Classic established, he felt it was time to introduce the new Coonan Compact model, which brings us to the shiny new stainless steel pistol sent to us for testing. I'll break the pistol down and reveal how it performed momentarily, but I'll preface that with one important observation.

The meek may inherit the earth, but they won't be shooting Coonan pistols. This Compact powerhouse is not for the timid or beginning shooter. In the hands of

those accustomed to rocking it with the .357 Mag., however, shooting this pistol seems (almost) too much fun to be legal. I would defy you to do so and be able to suppress a smile afterward. If you can, you have a better poker face than I do.

■ POWERFUL HANDFUL

At first glance, the Coonan Compact leaves no doubt that the pistol traces its ancestry to John Browning's timeless Model 1911 pistol design, with one obvious difference. There's something a bit out of scale. The pistol looks larger than it is, and that's only partly due to the longer front-to-back size of the grip, which has to accommodate magazines holding the relatively long .357 Mag. cartridge.

The pistol is a handful, to be certain, and its appearance, while stylish in a Spartan sort of way, is squared-off, bulked-up and ready to rumble. It conveys the unmistakable impression that this is a serious piece of hardware with a take-no-prisoners attitude.

I was initially concerned about how well I'd handle the gun since I don't have large hands. The pad of my trigger finger still managed to reach the trigger comfortably and, as I would discover, the hand-filling grip helps absorb recoil. Once I got used to it, the pistol pointed as well as any 1911, which is to say it points very well.

■ INNER WORKINGS

While the 1911 was the primary inspiration for Coonan pistols, it was not the only one. The gun has 18 parts that are directly interchangeable with a 1911, but closer inspection reveals that some com-

ponents, designed to enhance reliability and accuracy, are true departures from the 1911. In many ways, the gun has more in common with John Browning's final design, the Browning Hi Power. This includes, most notably, the linkless barrel (or cam system) which has been adopted in one form or another by a majority of modern pistol makers. Gone, too, on the Compact model, is the barrel bushing. It's been replaced by a four-inch bull barrel machined from round bar stock.

"Linkless barrels are unbelievably more reliable and predictable than any of the linked-barrel guns," says Coonan. "They're self-adjusting for wear. Once you get a gun that works, it keeps going and going. We have range guns that have gone tens of thousands of rounds."

The extra weight of the bull

barrel, he says, aids reliable function in 1911-style guns. "The recoil stroke in the Compact is shorter than in the Classic," says Coonan. "The cycle time of a lighter slide and barrel mass and a shorter recoil stroke can be an issue, so the heavier barrel helps address that. The Compact recoil spring is a 24-pound spring at full compression, and our standard one on the full-size Classic is 22-pounds."

The Compact initially used stainless steel barrels, but Coonan has switched to hard chrome plated 4340 carbon steel, which he believes to be the "top of the heap" for barrel material. The barrels have six-groove rifling with a 1:16 rate of twist.

The pistol utilizes a skeletonized Commander-style hammer and a full-length guide rod. It forgoes the traditional internal extrac-

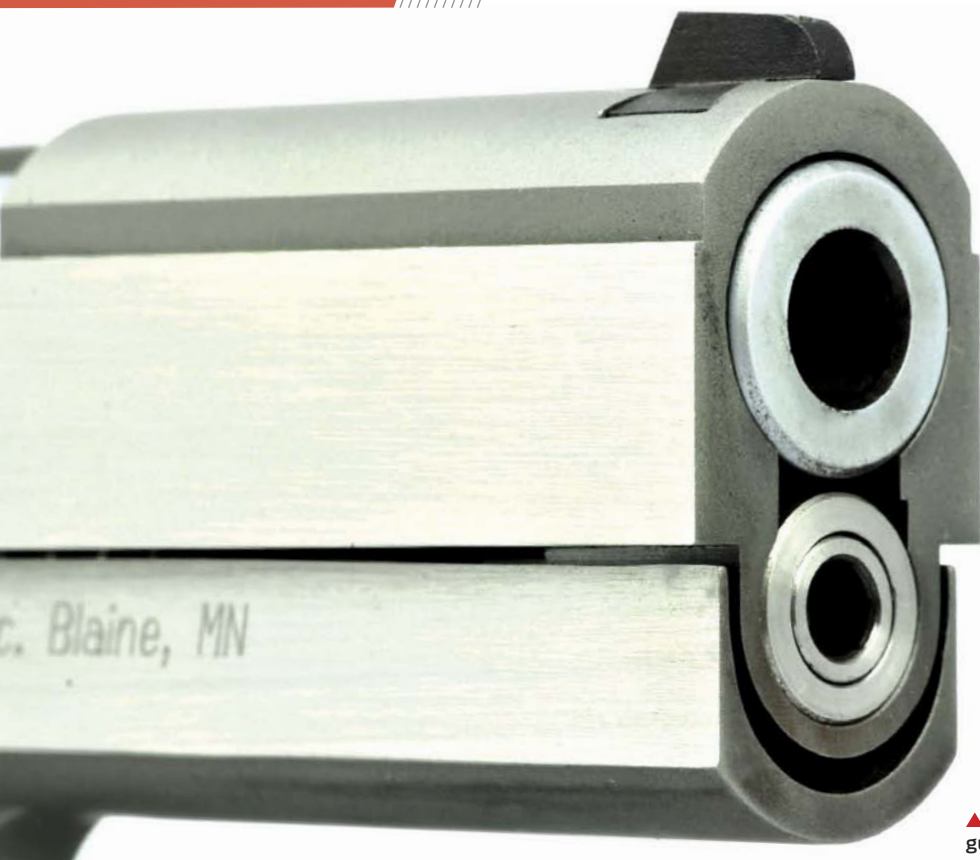
tor of 1911 pistols in favor of an external extractor. Some traditionalists may frown upon that, but it's worth noting that a number of 1911 manufacturers have mastered the use of external extractors and have no plans to change.

"Anyone who's done any custom work on 45s knows that extractor problems are a big issue," says Coonan. "It's a leaf spring, and the metallurgy in that leaf spring and the heat treatment has to be just so exact, and the machining. There's not a lot of room for error with that stuff. Nobody uses a leaf spring extractor anymore other than people who use 45s."

The pistol has an excellent two-stage trigger which rotates on an axis pin. This pivoting trigger, partially inspired by the Browning Hi Power, has a very light initial take-up with a firm stop, followed by a



► The Coonan has an excellent two-stage, pivoting trigger inspired in part by the Browning Hi Power design.



“The meek may inherit the earth, but they won’t be shooting Coonan pistols.”

▲ The pistol uses a full-length guide rod and a linkless barrel.

⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

COONAN 357 MAGNUM COMPACT

Action: Single-action semi-automatic

Frame: Stainless steel

Caliber: .357 Magnum

Magazine Capacity: 6 rounds

Barrel Length: 4 inches,
hard-chrome plated carbon steel

Overall length: 7.7 inches

Weight (Empty): 39 ounces

Height: 5.4 inches

Width: 1.3 inches

Sights: Dovetail fixed white 3-dot

MSRP: \$1,535

clean and crisp break. The trigger on our test pistol broke at 3 pounds, 13 ounces.

Happily, the pistol comes with two sturdy stainless steel magazines, giving you a capacity of 6 +1 in the Compact. The magazine is worth a closer look since the gun was, quite literally, designed around it. In Coonan’s magazine, each round sits at a steep-enough angle that the rim of each round rests in front of the rim of the round beneath it. This ensures that the rims don’t catch or interfere with one another. The magazines functioned flawlessly in testing.

Dovetail front and rear black sights are of the three-dot variety. The dots are generously sized for good visibility. In offhand shooting, the pistol shot a bit low for me, but that was easily corrected by taking a full sight picture. Night sights are an option with a DuraCoat version

of the Compact, but are not provided with the tested stainless model. Grips are attractive smooth black walnut with crisp laser engraving of the Coonan logo.

■ WITHIN REACH

Controls are instantly familiar to 1911 fans. The pistol has a nicely executed beavertail grip safety and an extended thumb safety located where it should be: under my thumb. One thing I quickly noticed about the frame-mounted thumb safety is the fact that it takes very little upward pressure with the thumb to engage, but considerably more downward, deliberate pressure to disengage. This makes it less likely to “rub off” when carried cocked and locked.

I was pleased to find that I could also reach the slide release without having to shift my grip. Those with large hands will proba-

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▲ The clean lines in this right side view of the pistol are complemented by the skeletonized hammer and trigger, and smooth black walnut grips with laser-engraved logo.

“This Compact powerhouse is not for the timid or beginning shooter.”

PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

COONAN 357 MAGNUM COMPACT

LOAD	AVG. MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	AVG. 25-YARD GROUP (INCHES)	BEST GROUP 25-YARDS (INCHES)
Federal American Eagle 158 gr. JHP	1254	2.45	1.35
Federal Premium 158 gr. Hydra-Shok	1240	3.01	2.55
Hornady American Gunner 125 gr. XTP	1345	3.19	2.32
Hornady Critical Duty 135 gr. FTX	1214	3.16	1.85
Winchester Super X 158 gr. JHP	1181	2.98	1.99

bly be able to reach the magazine release button without altering their grip, but I couldn't reach it without repositioning the pistol. When I did, magazines ejected with authority.

■ FEED ... FIRE ... PHENOMENAL

I set out to test six different factory loads with bullet weights ranging from 125 grains to 158 grains, but was only able to complete testing with five loads. One relatively slow (1189 fps) 125-grain personal defense load would not cycle reliably in the pistol. It simply would not eject the brass in reliable fashion. The gun did, however, digest every other load I fed it without hiccup, including a hotter (1345 fps) 125-grain load. Functionally, it fed, fired and ejected with zero issues save for the one powered-down load.

In accuracy testing, firing with cold-blooded calculation from sandbags at 25 yards, the pistol proved to be a pleasant surprise. The average size of all average

groups was just 2.95 inches. Winchester's Super X 158-grain JHP round and Hornady's new Critical Duty 135-grain FTX load turned in best groups of a bit less than two inches, while Federal's American Eagle 158-grain JHP load produced a single best group of 1.35 inches.

There was undoubtedly a bit of luck involved with that group since I no longer shoot pistols as well from the bench as I used to. That's attributable to the evil march of time and the necessity of wearing progressive eyeglass lenses, which make it impossible for me to keep both the front sight and target in focus at that distance. Even so, the best groups turned in by the Coonan Compact surprised me. They were better than I can typically achieve with many full-size pistols, and I believe that says a lot more about the gun than the shooter.

Still, I prefer to test defensive handguns for "practical" accuracy – specifically, how well they shoot at average self-defense range. In this regard, the pistol performed well. At

seven yards, I was able to keep most rapid-fire groups within three or four inches, and that will most definitely get the job done whether you take the pistol hunting or employ it in a self-defense role.

I didn't have time to explore holster options for the Compact, apart from seeing if it would fit in any of my numerous holsters designed for Commander-sized 1911s. It didn't, but quite a number of manufacturers make holsters for the full-size Classic. I expect the same will be true for the Compact.

Recoil was just a tad on the snappy side, as you would expect with full-house .357 Magnum rounds, but experienced shooters will have no difficult mastering the pistol. Thanks in part to the gun's recoil-mitigating weight (39 ounces empty) and hand-filling grip, it popped back on target faster than I expected it to.

■ SPEED ZONE

Velocities out of the four-inch barrel were, happily, quite close to

► The stainless version of the Compact has dovetail front and rear black sights of the three-dot variety.





▲ The pistol performed well in accuracy testing. This rapid-fire group from the “typical” self-defense range of seven yards demonstrates the pistol’s potential effectiveness in that role.

factory advertised velocities for most of the loads tested over my Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 chronograph. The Federal American Eagle 158-grain JHP load slightly exceeded factory-stated velocity, zipping along at an average of 1254 fps. It was, in addition to being the most accurate load tested, the hottest of three tested 158 grain loads. Federal’s 158-grain Hydra-Shok load was only 14 fps behind and precisely matched factory-stated velocity.

The greatest variation from factory-claimed velocities was with Hornady’s American Gunner XTP 125-grain load, which came in 155 fps below advertised velocity of 1500 fps. That’s perfectly understandable when you consider that the factory velocity was achieved with an eight-inch test barrel, versus this pistol’s four-inch barrel. At

1345 fps, this load was still the fastest of all loads tested.

Make no mistake about it: this pistol likes – indeed, it demands – to be fed hotter loads, and that was fine with me. The sound and fury of shooting full-house .357 Mag. loads, complete with rings of fire emanating from the muzzle, is part of the appeal of shooting Coonan pistols.

■ TARRY NOT

A lot of potential buyers wound up kicking themselves when they failed to purchase an original Coonan pistol back in the 1980s. They were forced to add it to their wish list, wait and hope one came on the used market at an affordable price. Thanks to Coonan’s return, that wait has gotten a lot shorter.

It may be time to dust off that wish list. **GW**

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Together, the Ruger Charger .22-caliber semi-auto pistols offer something for shooters with different needs and tastes. Both come with bipods, accessory rails and 15-round magazines.



RUGER Redefines Rimfires

Text & Photos by Dave Workman

With 10/22 action, rails & a bipod, these recently re-introduced pistols will get you charged up

You can't keep a good gun down. Don't believe it? Check out the new and improved Charger pistols recently re-introduced by Ruger. Ruger has revived the semi-automatic Charger pistol in two versions, both featuring enhancements that will no doubt appeal to hordes of handgunners looking for something a little different in a Rimfire.



Workman used his trusty Bushnell Elite 3200 long-eye-relief scope set in Weaver QD rings for testing both Chargers.

LINEAGE

Built on the Ruger 10/22 action, the 22 Charger is available as a Standard model and a Takedown version, both of which feature the new BX-15 15-round magazine, a threaded 10-inch barrel, A2-style grips, Picatinny-style accessory rails, and an adjustable UTG bipod. The 1/2-28 barrel threads accept most suppressors or flash hiders, and they come from the factory with thread protectors. Each Charger measures 19.25 inches overall.

The Standard is a fine firearm, albeit rather straightforward in its execution. Weighing in at 3.13 pounds, the pistol is turnkey, no real assembly required. The brown lami-



nate stock has eye appeal and works well. A nice, full-length soft case from Ruger rounds out the package.

■ TAKEDOWN TIPS

Now, the Takedown model intrigued the heck out of me. The first thing I noticed is that there's about a 1/8-inch gap in the Green Mountain laminate stock that looks odd, almost as if the gun didn't fit together properly. That's deceptive, of course, because the small space allows pivoting of the barrel and forearm into and out of lockup with no rubbing of the surfaces between the stock sections.

To put both ends together, the bolt needs to be locked to the rear, allowing the breech section to slide smoothly into the receiver. It takes just a few seconds to accomplish, and the lockup is tight. This procedure is controlled by a small latch centered at the bottom rear of the forearm stock section. It may seem

stiff at first, but a bit of thumb pressure pushes it forward, allowing the barrel section to be pivoted counter-clockwise for disassembly. To put it together, simply do things in reverse by inserting the barrel breech into the receiver and giving it a clockwise turn.

The Takedown comes with a hard plastic case featuring lots of padding inside with cutouts for the various components. This case is lockable, and it's a rather sturdy object that could be used as a blunt force instrument in an emergency.

■ LAMINATION RUMINATIONS

As for the laminate stocks, they're both handsome in either the brown or Green Mountain finishes. I've had kind of a love/hate sentiment toward laminated stocks, depending upon the finish and thickness of the wood layers.

The concept has been around for about 30 years, and honestly—in

the opinion of a fellow who grew up in the Pacific Northwest where plywood was a major part of the timber industry for decades—it's a grand idea.

Applying the plywood concept to a gunstock is something I wish I'd thought of. While the stock may be a bit heavier than a typical wood stock, plywood stocks are just about unbreakable because of the resins involved and the different grain directions, and, in my experience anyway, they're virtually impervious to changes in the weather.

■ ROCK STEADY

One thing that makes the Charger 22 a winner is the bipod. While this is a handgun, it's no belt pistol. There's a QD stud mounted on the front end of the stock on both pistols, but no corresponding rear stud. That front stud is for mounting the bipods, but I suggest putting one on the rear somewhere so you could easily carry either pis-



The Takedown model comes apart just ahead of the receiver by merely pressing a latch pin on the forearm.

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In the Zone—Bench testing the Charger 22 Takedown with an ample supply of ammunition.

⦿ SPECIFICATIONS

CHARGER

Manufacturer: Sturm, Ruger

Caliber: .22 Long Rifle

Action: Semi-auto

Capacity: 15 rounds

Barrel length: 10 inches

Finish: Matte black

Stock: Laminated brown (Standard),
Green Mountain (Takedown)

OAL: 19.25 inches

Weight: 3.13 pounds (Standard),
3.22 pounds (Takedown)

MSRP: \$309 (Standard)
\$409 (Takedown)



The Takedown model is perfect for backpackers or people on day hikes who may want to do some plinking or small game hunting on the trail.

“I could just about despise Ruger for creating these magazines because they make it so easy to burn through a hundred rounds before you know it...”

tol with a sling.

With a good scope, either of the Charger 22 models will reach out better than a hundred yards, and for the shooter who wants to trek off across the landscape looking for ground squirrels or prairie dogs, that's a comfortable way to carry.

The bipod gives this pistol considerable stability, whether shooting prone, or from a table or bench, or even — where it is legal, of course — using the hood of a truck as a platform. I found that this bipod gives ample clearance for the 15-round “banana” type BX-15 magazine. I was happy that both bipods — the two guns came with different models — were of the telescoping variety.

The modern bipod is a very lightweight unit, and it makes sense for this kind of pistol. One cannot always count on having a decent rest for a pistol, though I've used backpacks over the years successfully. For the Charger, a bipod could be a godsend, and I'm delighted that Ruger had the foresight to include one with each gun.

■ OPTICAL ELATION

Some time ago I acquired a

A few years ago, I had the chance to test the original Charger in these pages. It was a good shooter; very accurate and, as is typical of a Ruger 10/22, a real “lead hose.” Translation: Once you start popping off .22 Long Rifle rounds, it gets addictive quickly. If I recall correctly, that first experience I almost burned up a couple hundred rounds before I suddenly stopped myself and took a count.

long-eye-relief Bushnell Elite 3200 adjustable 2-6X scope. It has a satin stainless finish that offsets nicely against a blue or black-finish action and a set of blue steel Weaver QD rings. This has been a dandy little scope that has seen a fair number of handguns underneath it, and it's the one I used on both of these pistols.

I never had to worry about recoil creating any problems with the scope. The .22 Long Rifle cartridge, especially in a firearm weighing more than 3 pounds, is almost non-



Both Charger models are fitted with A-2 grips. They're rugged and hollow, with molded checkering for a solid hold.



The A-2 grip feels good in the hand and it's impervious to weather, snow and mud. It is mounted at a proper angle for a comfortable feel.

existent. Couple that with the semi-auto action that soaks up rimfire recoil and shooting either of these Charger 22 pistols was pretty much indistinguishable from shooting an airgun.

■ ROUND & ROUND

Thanks to some careful planning a few years ago, and a couple of lucky breaks, I stockpiled a good supply of .22 Long Rifle ammunition. It pretty much carried me through the recent hoarder-ignited shortage, and allowed me to have a decent selection of different cartridge types for just such occasions as this one.

Loading up with a variety of hollow point and soft lead ammunition from Remington and Federal, both models were a hoot to shoot. Off a bench, with the bipods for a rest, once I got each pistol zeroed at 25 yards, using Birchwood Casey Shoot-N-C targets, it only took a few rounds through each pistol to get a zero.

■ ABSOLUTE ZERO

This exercise was certainly good to reaffirm something veteran shooters have known for generations: Even in two similar guns, a scope will have to be adjusted because they will not inherently shoot to the same point of aim.

The Takedown model required several shots to zero, perhaps because the scope was out of adjustment from a previous use. Once I had it on target, however, I could pretty easily lob rounds into the 10-ring, and narrowed the groups into the X-ring at 25 yards in fading light.

After swapping the scope over to the Standard model, I had it zeroed in about five rounds, and then

consistently punched holes in the left side of the X-ring. I then turned my attention to some clay targets and broke them to pieces, and for the final string of shots, I tossed out an empty tin can and started shooting holes in the bottom end.

Tin cans make terrific plinking targets. It's just plain fun to bonk a hard tin can and make it spin, roll or even bounce. While most people will stand a tin can on its end and shoot at a vertical target, when you restrict your shooting to the hard bottom and consistently put holes in it, your marksmanship will be affirmed.

Now, if you can hit this tin can consistently at, say, 50 yards, you'll be able to pop prairie dogs, rabbits, squirrels and other small game or varmints with ease. When I was a teen, I used to hunt raccoons with a guy and we used .22-caliber pistols to bring down the treed ringtails. This is exactly the kind of endeavor for which the Charger, in either version, is perfect.

■ INSIDER INFORMATION

I recommend packing along a spare magazine; either a second 15-round BX-15, or one of Ruger's superb BX-25 magazines, which holds 25 rounds. I could just about despise Ruger for creating these magazines because they make it so easy to burn through a hundred rounds before you know it, and make it fun in the process! (I privately believe that the guy who designed these extended magazines owns stock in an ammunition company, and saw me coming.)

During my evaluation of both pistol models I discovered that the BX-25 magazine fits just fine when the pistols are used with the



▲ The Takedown model is perfect for backpackers or people on day hikes who may want to do some plinking or small game hunting on the trail.



▲ The Takedown model comes in this compartmentalized padded case. The box is lockable, and there are spaces cut in the foam padding to accommodate the barrel and receiver sections, bipod and magazine. There's also a tough cable lock.

“Once you start popping off .22 Long Rifle rounds, it gets addictive quickly.”

bipods. I also discovered you can empty the magazine just as fast with the Charger as you can with a 10/22. Doesn't that just drive you nuts?

There's a cure for this kind of crazy: More shooting. Ruger's revival and update of the Charger platform is a good idea for any number of reasons, the best one being that it's a darn good shooter. It is accurate, capable of digesting any .22 Long Rifle ammunition, and as simple to operate as the legendary 10/22 rifle.

■ ELEVATOR SPEECH

Topped with a good scope, the Charger is going to deliver shot after accurate shot under all kinds of conditions, season after season. Whether your thing is paper targets, steel pigs and chickens, or small game, varmints and predators, the Charger seems entirely capable of stacking up to any task.

Someone asked me, "Is it a keeper?" Damn straight they're both keepers. But you'd better stock up on lots of ammunition; you're going to need it. **GW**

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Text & Photos by Brad Fitzpatrick

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Under normal circumstances, the deer stand is a place to collect your thoughts and enjoy an escape from the noise and chaos of the outside world, a time to reconnect with nature and reflect on the tranquility that surrounds you. But these were not normal circumstances.

The AB3's Inflex Technology recoil pad helps keep felt recoil to a minimum by redirecting recoil away from the face. The composite stock is weatherproof, and the AB3 has some modern, angular lines while maintaining a classic profile.

► The AB3 has a two-position tang safety that does not allow the bolt to be opened in the safe position. The bolt release button, located just above and behind the bolt handle, can be pressed to allow loading and unloading the rifle with safety still engaged.



■ EMBRACING THE AMBIANCE

Directly behind me was a 4,400-acre private lake, and I was hunting just outside Stuttgart, Arkansas in December. In case you're not a waterfowler, Stuttgart is to the duck and goose hunter what Las Vegas is to the gambler, or Nashville for country music fans. Each year, millions of waterfowl pass through the region as they push southward toward warmer weather, and there were tens of thousands of geese and ducks resting on the water as evening approached.

"Resting" is a relative term, I suppose, for between the nasally whistle of a sea of white snow

geese and the familiar rasp of thousands of mallard drakes and hens there was very little rest to be had. It was the only time I have ever hunted in earplugs.

■ OH, DEER

The noise and constant motion overhead almost kept me from noticing a long-legged doe that slipped out of a sage field in the late evening hours. As she worked across a field of winter wheat I saw another deer appear behind her, almost certainly her yearling fawn, and then a long string of does and fawns that spread out 150 yards across the wheat field to my right.

Eventually, a bull-necked eight-point buck with beautiful, long tines



appeared out of the sage and stood surveying the area, his impressive antlers catching the sunlight as he turned his head to scan the open field. In a few moments he too began to feed.

You might expect this buck was the deer I had been waiting for, but this was not the case. I took the time to acknowledge his impressive headgear and regal bearing before going back to the business of selecting a doe to harvest. The buck, as impressive as he was, was likely only three or four years old. I was after an old doe or two because the freezer at home was getting low on meat.

There were two does that would work, both of which were old deer. The first crossed the field directly in front of me and I slipped the A-Bolt 3 in .30-06 up and over the top of the stand rail and settled the gun against my shoulder, making sure once more that the deer in my line of vision was indeed the

doe I was after. I found her shoulder in the Bushnell scope, pushed half the breath out of my lungs, and squeezed the trigger.

At the sound of the shot, startled deer began running in every direction, some disappearing into the woods behind the wheat field while others made a wide circle and cut into a narrow drainage that led down to the lake. The big buck was bounding through the sage, his white tail and impressive rack barely visible above the top of the stark, winter-brown plants. As for the doe, she didn't make it very far, and my freezer would indeed be filled this year.

■ QUALITY IN THE MAKING

Browning has achieved such status and recognition in the hunting and shooting world that simply seeing the Buckmark logo is often-times enough persuasion for consumers to buy, but the company has not let that success diminish

the quality of their products. The A-Bolt 3 (or "Trey Bolt", as I affectionately call it) is a prime example of that.

There has been a race to the bottom in recent years with regard to bolt action centerfires, a battle to produce a rifle that costs very little and yet is capable of extreme accuracy. While it is true that we almost invariably measure the quality of a rifle in terms of inches and minutes of angle, build quality is also an important consideration.

The A-Bolt 3 neither looks nor feels like an inexpensive gun, and it shoots very well. In fact, its profile and design harken back to the original A-Bolt Synthetic (no accident, I'm sure). But while the AB3 shares the look and feel of the older A-Bolt, mechanically they are two totally different guns. In fact, the AB3 shares more mechanical elements with the new X-Bolt than the old A-Bolt.

■ CHECK THIS OUT

The new AB3 features a three-lug, push-feed bolt design with a bolt that's the same diameter as the locking lugs, allowing for a 60-degree bolt lift and a smooth, slick, wobble-free bolt stroke. The button-rifled barrel is free-floated, and each barrel is triple-checked for straightness and then air-gauged to insure that the diameter is consistent throughout. Chambers are hand-reamed for tighter tolerance and correct headspace, and the muzzle has a target crown to protect the rifling from damage.

The two-position safety is located on the tang—a position I believe is the most convenient of all locations (you'll read why later)—and there's a bolt release button



The AB3 has the look of other Browning rifles, particularly its namesake, the A-Bolt. However, the AB3 is more closely related to the new X-Bolt rifle.



The AB3 has a right-hand palm swell that helps secure the rifle and makes it more comfortable to shoot. The composite stock has a textured pistol grip and forearm for a secure hold.

⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

BROWNING AB3

Action: Centerfire Bolt Action

Caliber: .30-06 (tested), .270, 7mm Rem Mag, .300 Win Mag

Capacity: 4 rounds

Barrel Length: 22 inches (tested), 26 inches

Weight: 6 pounds, 13 ounces

Finish: Matte Blued

Stock: Black composite

Overall Length: 42.75 inches

MSRP: \$599

located just above the bolt handle. The arrangement allows you to have a two-position safety while still having the ability to unlock the bolt in the safe position for loading and unloading. When the system becomes familiar to you, it is second-nature. The bolt handle itself has a flattened knob. Though the AB3 has no sights, it is drilled and tapped to accept 8-40 screws (two per base).

■ THERE'S MORE

Today's bolt gun shooters demand a good trigger regardless of price point, so any rifle, budget or otherwise, needs to have a crisp, clean trigger pull. The AB3's integrated trigger system works very well and it breaks just at 3.5 pounds as advertised. When you're on tar-

get the trigger can surprise you because it doesn't take much pressure to send a bullet downrange, which is a great aid in overall accuracy. I've tested two AB3 rifles, one in 7mm Remington Magnum and one in .30-06 (the one that I tested in Arkansas) and both shot around one-inch groups with quality factory ammunition.

The AB3's stock is composite and has angular lines that aren't too avant-garde for most shooters' tastes, yet the rifle looks modern and shoulders well. Textured grip panels help you hold the rifle, and the AB3 comes with a right-hand palm swell that fills the non-shooting hand and helps stabilize the rifle.

The detachable box magazine latch is located at the front of the

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Tikka T3 Lite



Item #: **JRTB312**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **4+1**
BBL: **22.438"**

- Satin Stainless Steel Finish
- Bolt Action
- Black Synthetic Stock
- Detachable Box Magazine
- Adjustable Trigger



BERETTA

Tikka T3 Lite



Item #: **JRTE314**
Caliber: **22-250**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **3+1**
BBL: **22.438"**

- Blue Finish
- Bolt Action
- Black Synthetic Stock
- Detachable Box Magazine
- Adjustable Trigger

HOWA
Precision Rifles & Barreled Actions

M1500
with Hogue Kryptek
Full Dip Package



Item #: **HKF90227KHF+**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **5+1**
BBL: **20"**

- Kryptek Highlander Camo Finish
- Bolt Action
- Kryptek Highlander Hogue Soft Grip Stock
- Nikko Game King 4-16x44 Illuminated LRX Scope
- 5-Rd Detachable Magazine Kit
- Bi-Pod Included

MOSSBERG®

MVP Varmint



Item #: **27719**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **5+1**
BBL: **24"**

- Matte Blue Finish
- Bolt Action
- Grey Laminate Benchrest-Style Stock
- Varmint-Style Crown
- Accepts AR-Style Magazines
- LBA Trigger System
- Spiral Fluted Bolt

Remington®

700VLS



Item #: **7489**
Caliber: **22-250**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **4+1**
BBL: **26"**

- Matte Black Finish
- Bolt Action
- Laminated Stock
- Heavy Barrel
- Hinged Floor Plate

RUGER®

Ruger American Predator



Item #: **6971-RUG**
Caliber: **204RUG**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **5+1**
BBL: **22"**

- Black Matte Finish
- Bolt Action
- Moss Green Composite Stock
- Power Bedding
- Free Floating Barrel
- Marksman Adjustable Trigger
- Scope Rail



Savage Arms
The Definition of Accuracy

25 Walking Varminter



Item #: **19155-SAV**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **4+1**
BBL: **22"**

- Satin Blue Finish
- Bolt Action
- Black Synthetic Stock
- Center-Feed Detachable Box Magazine
- AccuTrigger
- Pillar Bedding



Savage Arms
The Definition of Accuracy

11 Trophy Hunter XP Youth



Item #: **22205**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **4+1**
BBL: **20"**

- Matte Black Finish
- Bolt Action
- Muddy Girl Camo Synthetic Stock
- Mounted Nikon 3-9x40mm Scope with BDC Reticle
- Detachable Box Magazine
- AccuTrigger



THOMPSON/CENTER
America's Master Gunmaker

Encore Pro Hunter Predator



Item #: **5670**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **1**
BBL: **28"**

- Max 1 Camo Finish
- Single Shot
- Rugged Composite Max 1 Camo Stock with Contrasting Traction Grips
- Swing Hammer
- Target Style Match Grade Crown
- Fluted Barrel

Weatherby

Vanguard S2 X



Item #: **VHR223RR00**
Caliber: **223**
Sights: **No Sights**

Capacity: **5+1**
BBL: **20"**

- Matte Blue Finish
- Bolt Action
- Hog Reaper Pattern Stock
- Adjustable Trigger
- Sling Swivel Studs

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▲ The AB3 may have a budget price tag, but it's a well-built rifle that looks good and shoots great. It looks more expensive than its price tag suggests.

magazine and the stock comes with Browning's outstanding Inflex Technology recoil pad, which redirects recoil away from the shooter's face. Overall, the AB3 is an excellent rifle that looks and feels like a much more expensive gun. It's available in .30-06, .270 (22 inch barrel), 7mm Remington Magnum and .300 Winchester magnum (26 inch barrel). Look for short-action calibers to follow.

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

At the range in Arkansas there was not a lot of work to be done; Browning's Scott Grange had sighted the rifles in, and my own A-Bolt was shooting two inches high and a half-inch to the right. I adjusted the Bushnell 3500 scope, and the next two shots at the 100-yard target were touching, both just a couple inches above the bull.

National Shooting Sports Foundation's Jennifer Pearsall was

the first hunter to pull the trigger, and as we drove back on the second night word came in via cell phone that she had taken a big 13-point buck at the far end of the property.

On the second night I managed to harvest the big doe, and in an effort to let the area rest after the shot I moved to a different location not far from the main house on the

property. It was another wheat field, but I was positioned facing into the woods and toward a large patch of thick, head-high cane that stretched for a hundred yards.

It was much quieter than the original location, but as the deer filtered into the field I couldn't get a shot through the trees. I still had a doe permit as well as two buck tags, but even after almost two-

WHY SCI?

On the hunt in Arkansas, we were joined by Nelson Freeman of Safari Club International, one of the leading organizations in the defense of sportsmen's rights across the country and around the globe. While Safari Club has been viewed as a group for international hunters, few sportsmen and women know that Safari Club spends millions in defense of our right to hunt domestically, and the organization remains vigilant against new legislation that poses a threat to our rights as hunters and conservationists.

SCI was instrumental in the fight to defend Maine's bear hunting, a costly battle in which the rights of hunters were ultimately upheld. Without Safari Club and other groups like it, our rights to hunt and fish would disappear, and with it the North American conservation model that has proven so effective over the past century.

"Many people think that we're all about big game hunting around the world," Freeman says, "but I tell people we cover everything from rabbits to rhinos."

As anti-hunting groups gather their resources for the fight to stop hunting, SCI is working to educate the public on the value of hunting and fishing. From funding research projects on a variety of wild game to providing resources for teachers and school children, SCI is working to preserve our right to hunt and to spread the word that hunters are the cornerstone of successful conservation efforts in this country.

For more information about Safari Club's programs visit SafariClub.org

dozen deer had slipped out of the woods and into the field I could not get a clear shot. Light was fading quickly, and it was the last day of the hunt.

■ OFFHAND EXERCISE

I heard the cane stalks shiver and knew that there was a deer to my right. Positioned as I was in my stand, with my head rotated to look over my left shoulder at the deer in the field, I was turned away from the cane and was immediately spotted by the doe that was standing fifty yards away. I couldn't turn to shoot right-handed—that would surely send her rushing back into the cane before I had my chance—so I very slowly lifted the AB3 with my left hand and slid it into position on the rail, moving only a few inches at a time as the doe stamped and snorted.

When the rifle came to rest on the rail I managed to slip the safety off with my left hand and actually shot the doe from that position (thank you, tang safety). As the rifle cracked the doe spun, ran four yards, then turned and collapsed almost where she had been standing.

■ GREAT GUN, GREAT PRICE

With two does in the freezer I had accomplished what I came to Arkansas for, and I was more impressed than ever with the A-Bolt 3. It's an inexpensive gun, but not a

cheap gun, and it has all the features you've come to expect from a high-quality Browning rifle with a price tag almost anyone can afford.

GW



▲ NSSF's Jennifer Pearsall with an excellent 13-point whitetail buck she took with her AB3 in .270. The Federal Fusion bullet entered the deer as he was quartering towards her and dropped him on the spot.

 **CONTACT**

Browning
(800) 333-3288
Browning.com

JANTZ - USA AT K

JANTZ USA MADE BLADES

Jantz Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.
Each of these hollow ground blades are designed by our team and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

Oyster Blade



The back is flat.

Designed with beauty and usability in mind, the rounded and ground tip is perfect for shucking oysters practically and safely. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 6 3/4", blade is 2 1/4" x 1.04" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J1008	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	29.95
J1089	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

Pattern 35



Overall length 6 5/8", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J3528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J3558	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	39.95
J3589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

Large Caper



Overall length 7 3/4", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8258	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	34.95
J8289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	59.95

Small Caper



Overall length 5 1/8", blade is 2" x 1/2" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 1/8".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8158	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	29.95
J8189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	29.95

Jantz Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.

The two blades below are only a portion of our flat ground **Jantz** Blades. Designed and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

Pattern 31



Pattern 31 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 5/8", Blade Length 3", width 1 1/8", thickness 5/32". Bolster holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3147	154CM	Peened	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3198	1095	Satin	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J319K	1095	Black	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J3189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	79.95

Pattern 65



Overall length 8 7/16", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J6528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J6589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

Pattern 51



Similar to our Pattern 31 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 7 5/8", blade is 3" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	34.95
J5128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	34.95
J5148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	39.95
J5178	CPMS 90V	Satin	Cryo	56-59	99.95
J5189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

Pattern 52



Similar to our Pattern 22 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 8 3/8", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 3/32" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See page online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5208	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J5228	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J5289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

Pattern 61



Pattern 61 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 3/4", Blade Length 3 1/4", width 1 1/4", thickness 9/64" (.140"). Bolster holes 3/32", Handle Holes 3/32" and 3/16", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6107	440C	Peened	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6157	CPM154	Peened	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6158	CPM154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	89.95

Kirinite HANDLE MATERIAL

1 1/2" X 10" Scales below.

Glow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1815	1/8"	10.95
KI1315	3/16"	15.95
KI1415	1/4"	19.95

Desert Camo



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1802	1/8"	8.95
KI1302	3/16"	9.95
KI1402	1/4"	14.95

Lava Flow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1804	1/8"	8.95
KI1304	3/16"	9.95
KI1404	1/4"	14.95

Red Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1808	1/8"	8.95
KI1308	3/16"	10.95
KI1408	1/4"	13.95

Green Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1810	1/8"	8.95
KI1310	3/16"	10.95
KI1410	1/4"	13.95

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Patriot



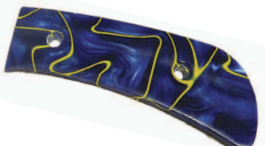
CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1801	1/8"	8.95
KI1301	3/16"	9.95
KI1401	1/4"	14.95

Toxic Green



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1803	1/8"	8.95
KI1303	3/16"	9.95
KI1403	1/4"	14.95

Royal Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1807	1/8"	8.95
KI1307	3/16"	9.95
KI1407	1/4"	14.95

Black Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1806	1/8"	8.95
KI1306	3/16"	10.95
KI1406	1/4"	13.95

Blue Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1809	1/8"	8.95
KI1309	3/16"	10.95
KI1409	1/4"	13.95

All steel offered below by **JANTZ** is made in the USA. Visit www.knifemaking.com to purchase other widths and thicknesses.

CPM® S110V® Stainless Steel

CPM S110V is a high alloy martensitic stainless tool steel. Offers better corrosion resistance than 440C or CPM S90V. Aim hardness is 58/61. **Typical chemistry C 2.8, Nb 3.0, Cr 15.25, V 9.00, Mo 2.25, Co 2.5.**

18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF118	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 65.95
QF658	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 98.95
QF718	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 86.95
QF728	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$113.95

36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF136	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$129.95
QF656	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$195.95
QF716	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$171.95
QF726	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$225.95

CPM® 20-CV Tool Steel

CPM 20CV is a martensitic stainless steel with exceptionally good wear resistance and outstanding corrosion resistance. Aim for hardness is 58-59Rc. CPM 20CV is a registered trademark of Crucible Industries LLC.

Typical chemistry: C 1.9, Cr 20.0, V 4.0, Mo 1.0, W 6.

18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF218 - \$ 36.95	TU218 - \$ 42.95	TG218 - \$ 48.95
1/8"	2"	TF228 - \$ 44.95	TU228 - \$ 52.95	TG228 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF318 - \$ 48.95	TU318 - \$ 54.95	TG318 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	2"	TF328 - \$ 65.95	TU328 - \$ 73.95	TG328 - \$ 81.95

36" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF216 - \$ 72.95	TU216 - \$ 84.95	TG216 - \$ 96.95
1/8"	2"	TF226 - \$ 93.95	TU226 - \$109.95	TG226 - \$125.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF316 - \$ 90.95	TU316 - \$102.95	TG316 - \$114.95
5/32"	2"	TF326 - \$123.95	TU326 - \$139.95	TG326 - \$155.95

CPM® REX M4 High Speed Steel

CPM REX M4 HC(HS) is a special purpose high speed steel exhibiting better wear resistance and toughness. Also providing enhanced machinability and grindability. Aim hardness is 63/65. **Typical chemistry: C 1.42, Mn .30, S .06, Cr 4.00, V 4.0, Mo 5.25, W 5.5.**

18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF428	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF518	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF528	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 70.95
JF548	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$134.95

36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF426	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF516	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF526	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$139.95
JF546	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$268.95

CPM® D2 Carbon Steel

CPM D2 is an air-hardening, high carbon, high chromium tool steel, heat treatable to HRC 60-62. It offers excellent abrasion resistance. Machinable in the annealed condition and exhibits minimal distortion on hardening. **Typical chemistry: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, V .95, Mo .90.**

18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF218 - \$ 26.95	ZU218 - \$ 32.95	ZG218 - \$ 38.95
1/8"	2"	ZF228 - \$ 34.95	ZU228 - \$ 42.95	ZG228 - \$ 50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF318 - \$ 28.95	ZU318 - \$ 34.95	ZG318 - \$ 40.95
5/32"	2"	ZF328 - \$ 39.95	ZU328 - \$ 47.95	ZG328 - \$ 55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF418 - \$ 35.95	ZU418 - \$ 41.95	ZG418 - \$ 47.95
3/16"	2"	ZF428 - \$ 45.95	ZU428 - \$ 53.95	ZG428 - \$ 61.95

36" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF216 - \$ 51.95	ZU216 - \$ 63.95	ZG216 - \$ 75.95
1/8"	2"	ZF226 - \$ 65.95	ZU226 - \$ 81.95	ZG226 - \$ 97.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF316 - \$ 55.95	ZU316 - \$ 67.95	ZG316 - \$ 79.95
5/32"	2"	ZF326 - \$ 75.95	ZU326 - \$ 91.95	ZG326 - \$107.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF416 - \$ 66.95	ZU416 - \$ 78.95	ZG416 - \$ 90.95
3/16"	2"	ZF426 - \$ 86.95	ZU426 - \$102.95	ZG426 - \$118.95

FOLDER ACCESSORIES

GTC

Bearings



GTC 440C stainless steel thrust ball bearings caged in stainless steel retainers developed by **Gustavo T. Cecchini's GTC Knives** to reduce friction and failures, increase opening time, and easier cleaning. The 100% stainless steel construction eliminates the problems of other thrust bearings that are not 100% stainless. Sold separately.

CAT.#	O.D.	I.D.	BALL DIA.	PRICE
GC101	.354"	.157"	.062"	1.29
GC106	.358"	.192"	.062"	1.29
GC111	.378"	.218"	.062"	1.29
GC121	.415"	.255"	.062"	1.29
GC102	.454"	.258"	.078"	1.29

Decorative Torx Screws for Pivot Pins

Designed and manufactured by **JANTZ** in our facility. Use with our threaded pivot barrels. 303 Stainless Torx head screw, .350" in length and threaded 6-48.

CAT.#	NAME	DIAMETER	TORX	PRICE
FF401	Spinner	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF402	Galaxy	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF403	Orchid	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF404	Turbine	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF271	Solar Flare	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF273	Gear	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF275	Bullseye	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF276	Cosmos	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF277	Texas Star	5/16"	T8	2.49

Threaded Pivot Only



Pivot barrels are threaded 6-48.

CAT.#	O.D.	LENGTH	FITS	PRICE
F85B	3/16"	.350"	1/4"	1.95
F88B	3/16"	.500"	1/4"	1.95
F96B	1/4"	.350"	5/16"	1.95
F98B	1/4"	.500"	5/16"	1.95

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JANTZ



Talkin'

Text & Photos by Leroy Thompson

TOMMY GUN

Nearly a Hundred Years of Full Auto Rock & Roll



The Thompson M1928 with 50-round drum magazine. Note the finned barrel and Cutts Compensator.



Isn't it funny how seemingly small stuff from your childhood can still influence you throughout your whole life?

I became interested in the Thompson submachine gun (Tommy gun) when I was very young. Those were the wonderful non-politically correct days when my friends and I had toy guns and—gasp, gasp—we pretended to shoot each other while we were playing Good Guys & Bad Guys. “Bang-bang. You’re dead!” “Un-uhh, you just winged me!”



Adding to my budding fertile imagination and lust for adventure, my last name is Thompson and I'm named for my uncle who was a Tommy gun-carrying paratrooper killed in action during the Battle for the Bulge in World War II.

Guess who always used a Tommy gun during Good Guys & Bad Guys?

■ THOMPSON'S DREAM

During the course of his distinguished military career, General John T. Thompson (no relation) became a strong proponent of automatic weapons.

In 1916, Thompson formed the Auto Ordnance Company to develop a small automatic rifle as a

weapon better suited to short engagement distances of trench warfare. Within a year, in 1917, Thompson was recalled to active service to be in charge of small arms design as Chief of the Small Arms Division of the U.S. War Department's Ordnance Office.

Although General Thompson had used his considerable influence (before and after leaving active duty in 1918) to push for a hand-held machine gun for use in trench warfare, the Annihilator prototypes (as they were known) weren't ready until the day the Armistice was signed in November, 1918.

After the Great War, Thompson became President of Auto Ordnance, and oversaw the adaptation



◀ A US Marine of the 1st Division engages the Japanese with his Thompson M1 in the South Pacific. (NARA photo)



of the military automatic gun to nonmilitary markets.

Classified as a submachine gun, because it was a small, hand-held automatic weapon that used .45 ACP pistol-caliber ammunition, the commercial designation was – no surprise – the Thompson sub-machine gun.

■ INITIAL DESIGNS

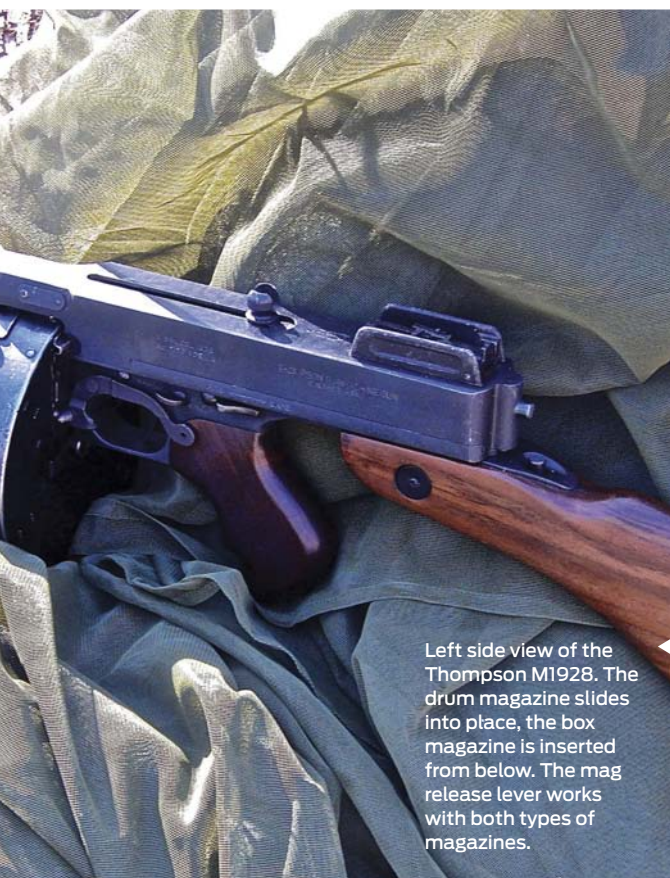
Much of the design for what would become the Thompson sub-machine gun (SMG) was carried out by Oscar V. Payne. Others involved in developing the Thompson SMG were Theodore H. Eickhoff and George E. Goll.

Improvements continued on the basic design, resulting in a contract between Auto Ordnance and Colt for

the manufacture of the Thompson SMG, as the weapon was now called. The initial contract called for Colt to produce 15,000 Thompsons, with the first production models available in March 1921, designated the M1921A. The 1921A was a beautifully crafted firearm and examples are highly sought by collectors.

Standard features of the M1921A, including the finned barrel, ladder-type rear sight, slotted cocking handle atop the receiver (so that the front sight could be seen through it), pistol grip and fore grip, a removable buttstock, a selector switch on the left side of the receiver, and the ability to accept box or drum magazines.

In 1926, the Cutts compensator, which had slots on top to vent



Left side view of the Thompson M1928. The drum magazine slides into place, the box magazine is inserted from below. The mag release lever works with both types of magazines.

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M1A/M-14, Mini-14, AK-47
AK-74, AKM



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Moscow, ID 83843
208-883-4734

www.ultimak.com



gases upward to reduce muzzle rise, was added. Guns so equipped were designated M1921AC.

When the U.S. Navy ordered Thompsons for sailors and Marines, they asked for the cyclic rate to be reduced, which was accomplished by adding weight to the actuator (cocking handle) and reducing the strength of the recoil and buffer springs.

The resulting version of the Thompson was designated the M1928, 1,500 of which were accepted by the U.S. Navy in March 1932, as the "Gun Submachine. Caliber .45, US Navy Model of 1928."

■ POST-WWI MARKETS

Despite the quality of the M1921A and M1921AC, it was still necessary to find a market. Early buyers included U.S. Postal Inspectors who issued Thompsons to the United States Marine Corps to protect the mail. Later, the Marines would use their own Thompsons in the counterinsurgency "Banana Wars" in Latin America and Caribbean. Domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies purchased Thompsons, as did some industrial security forces to use against striking workers.

Among the more famous

early purchasers were sympathizers of the Irish Republican Army, who sent Thompsons to Ireland. The "Thompson Gun" became famous in Irish Republican ballads and still turns up occasionally in Ireland today.

Based on information from friends in the Garda Síochána, the IRA reportedly used at least a few of the rarely seen 100-round drums for their Thompsons.

■ CHANGING HANDS

In 1928, John Thompson had retired as the head of Auto Ordnance. The company continued in business for the next decade, though operating at a loss.

After the death of Thompson and his son, an entrepreneur named Russell Maguire purchased the as-



▲ Staged photo of two paratroopers armed to the teeth. Note the trench knives, machete, and Thompson M1. (NARA photo)

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▲ Right side view of the Auto-Ordnance M1928

SPECIFICATIONS

THOMPSON M1928

Action: Blish Principle
Delayed Blowback

Caliber: .45 ACP

Overall Length: 33.5 inches

Barrel Length: 12 inches with
Cutts Compensator

Weight: 10.8 pounds empty

Cartridge Capacity: 20- or 30-round
box magazine, 50- or 100-round drum
magazine (100-round rarely seen)

Sights: Rear—Lyman Ladder,
Front—Post

Rate of Fire: 600-725 RPM

sets of the company. A new company, named the Thompson Automatic Arms Company, was formed just in time for the beginning of World War II.

THE WAR EFFORT

Colt had stopped producing the Thompson because of the costs and lack of sales, so with large sales on the horizon due to wartime demand, Maguire had to find a company to produce the Thompson.

Savage Arms was contracted to produce the M1928 in the U.S. Navy configuration. Production began in May 1940, with orders plentiful from the U.S. armed forces and the British, who were desperate for weapons.

The Savage-produced Thompsons were originally sold to Thompson Arms for \$67 each, though that

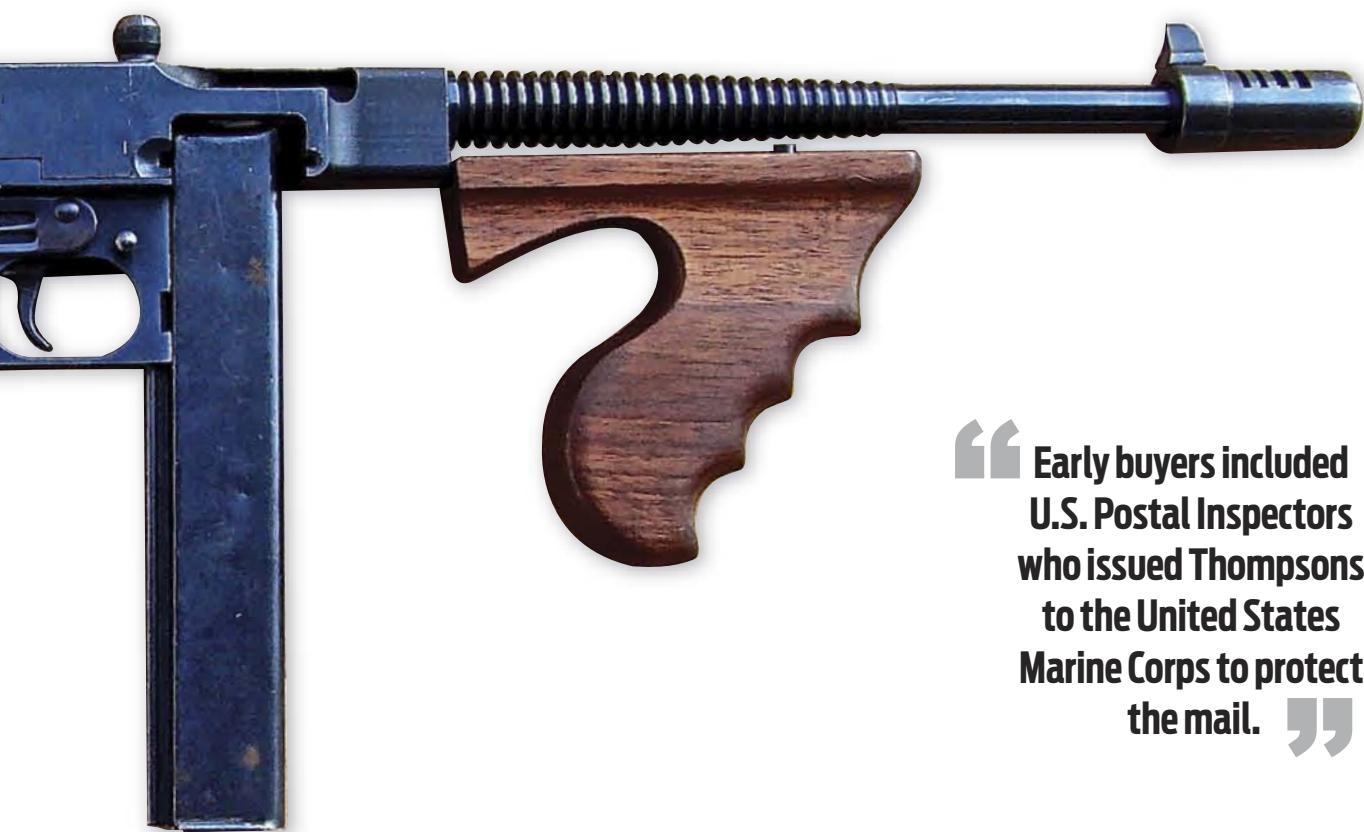
figure would drop as production was simplified. Price to the US Government was \$130 per gun and to the British or other foreign buyers \$200 (about \$3,329 in 2014 currency).

The Thompson was especially popular with British Commandos and would later be a staple with U.S. Airborne troops. Demand for the Thompson was such that by February 1942, 500,000 had been produced.

WARTIME EXPEDIENTS

The M1928 proved more expensive and difficult to produce than was necessary for military use. Changes in production methods and simplification of the Thompson design would result in the M1 military-grade Thompson widely used by US troops during World War II.

Among the changes from the



“Early buyers included U.S. Postal Inspectors who issued Thompsons to the United States Marine Corps to protect the mail.”

M1928 were replacement of the machined ejector with one of spring steel, omitting the barrel cooling fins and the Cutts Compensator. Other modifications included replacement of the Lyman rear sight by a simple L-shaped peep sight, removing the fore grip, and discontinuing the drum magazine in favor of box magazines.

Costs were reduced even more by converting the Thompson to a simple blowback operating system, and the top cocking handle was relocated from the top of the receiver to the right side in the process. Many more design and manufacturing changes came and went during the war, but are too numerous to address. The new version of the Thompson cost the US Government only \$44.00.

The new design was designated “Gun, Submachine, Caliber

.45, Thompson M1.” Late in 1942, additional manufacturing changes appeared in the next model, the M1A.

Military production of the Thompson continued until 1944, with 1,387,134 military Thompsons of all types having been produced.

■ THOMPSON SHOOTS THE THOMPSON

I didn’t get to shoot a genuine Thompson submachine gun until the 1960s when one was pulled out of a sheriff’s department armory and taken to the range. They let me put one box magazine through it.

Over the years, I have had access to armories and collections and have had a chance to do a reasonable amount of shooting with the Thompson. I can’t remember ever firing an M1921, nor have I fired Tommy gun equipped with a 100-

round drum. I have shot the M1928 and M1 versions quite a bit, though.

I’ll admit that I prefer the M1928 to the M1, primarily because it is classic and elegant, but I also find that the Cutts Compensator actually dampens muzzle rise. The fore grip helps control the M1928, as well. Oddly enough, I also find that the top cocking handle with the slot helps lead my eye from the rear peep sight to the front notch for faster sight acquisition.

Recoil of either the M1928 or M1 is entirely manageable. For most types of shooting, the simple peep sight on the M1 is enough, but for longer ranges, the Lyman ladder sight on the M1928 is definitely a boon. Shooting semi-auto, Thompsons are surprisingly accurate at 100 yards. In fact, some skilled World War II soldiers and Marines became reasonably proficient using



▲ For better control, Thompson grasps the fore grip and leans into the gun when firing the M1928 Thompson.



▲ Auto Ordnance markings and various patents that apply to the M1928

“ I became interested in the Thompson submachine gun (Tommy gun) when I was very young... ”

the Thompson in countersniper roles.

Cyclic rate of the Thompson is low enough that short controlled bursts may be fired readily. I usually try to shoot short bursts – 3-5 rounds. Yes, ripping through an entire magazine may be fun but is not considered good technique when using an SMG. Short controlled bursts are the way to go, and they go well with the Thompson.

■ STILL LOVE THE TOMMY GUN

The Thompson SMG is one of the classic American firearms, and it deserves to be. It is a stylish design in its earlier versions—and even to some extent in the M1—and certainly has its place in history. Any time one of my Class III dealer or collector friends talks about taking a Thompson to the range, I start gathering boxes of .45 ACP ammo: “Tell me when and where!” **GW**

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Ruger's 10/22 Carbine (blued finish) has the new 10/22 LaserMax laser aiming device mounted at the forend tip.

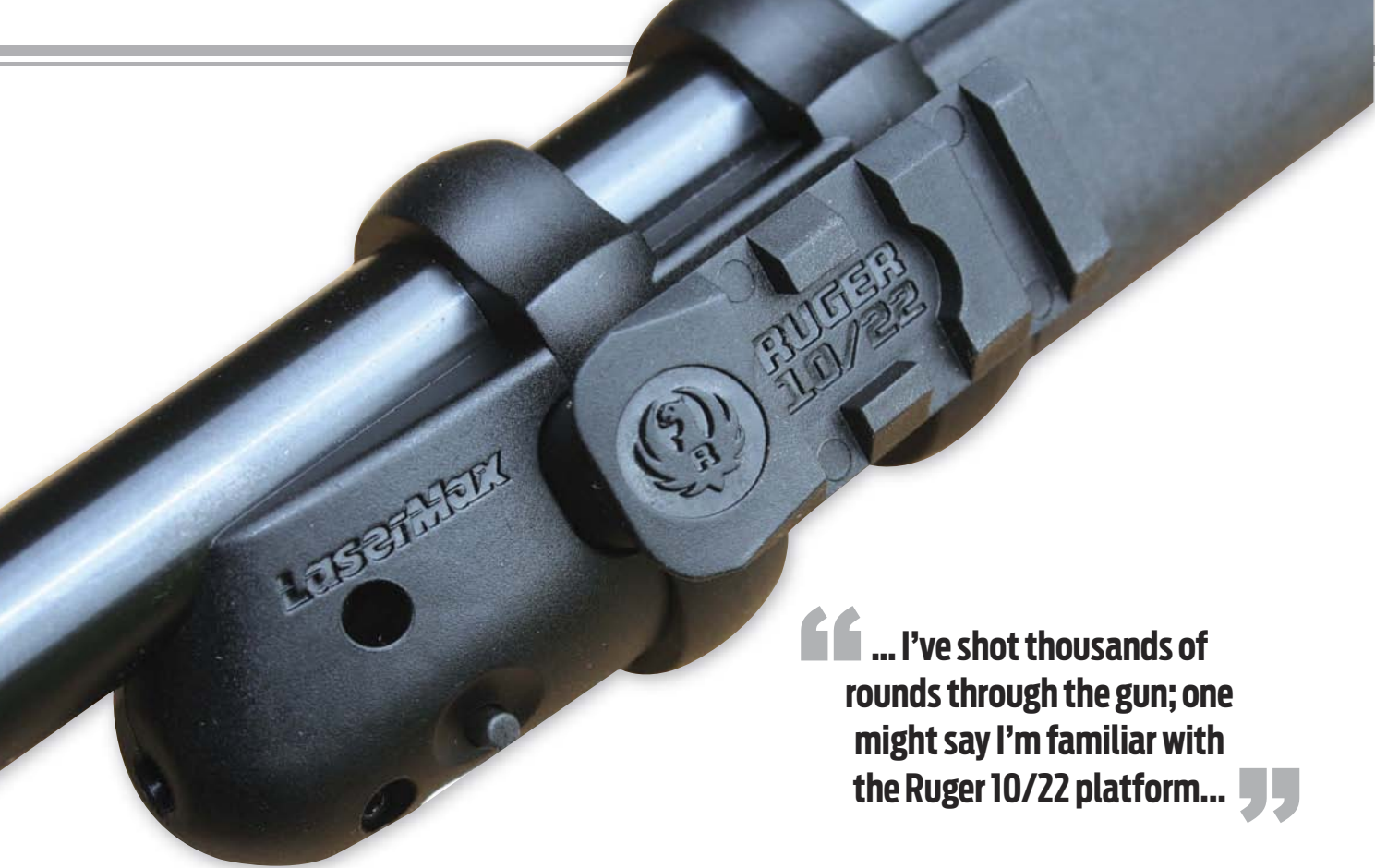


Laser Maximized **RUGER**

Text & Photos by Dave Workman

A Ruger 10/22 Carbine with an Onboard LaserMax Laser Makes This Popular Rifle More Accurate Than Ever

Everyone looks good shooting a Ruger 10/22, because this iconic rimfire is engineered to the point of near-perfection, allowing the operator to concentrate on shooting things. If you do your part, the 10/22 puts rounds where you want, repeatedly, for as long as the ammunition holds out.



“...I’ve shot thousands of rounds through the gun; one might say I’m familiar with the Ruger 10/22 platform...”

▲ Picatinny-style accessory rails on the laser body are handy for adding a white tactical light and an infrared laser designator.

Celebrating its golden anniversary in 2014, the 10/22 has been offered in so many variations that it’s impossible to list them all. In addition, an incredible industry developed to produce 10/22 parts and accessories, providing replacements and upgrades to make your 10/22 uniquely suited for your personal requirements.

A few years ago, I evaluated my personal 10/22 in these same pages. Since then, I’ve shot thousands of rounds through the gun; one might say I’m familiar with the Ruger 10/22 platform and consider it a classic.

■ LASERFICATION

I was satisfied that I had the Ruger 10/22 and variants figured

out. Then Ruger really got my attention when they released the 10/22 Carbine with an 18.5-inch barrel, black synthetic stock, and the new 10/22 LaserMax laser sight mounted beneath the barrel, ahead of the forend. The 10/22 LaserMax laser was created specifically for the Ruger 10/22 and is available on the synthetic-stock/blued finish 10/22 Carbine.

The 10/22 Laser unit is unobtrusive, has an ambidextrous on-off switch, and is easily adjustable for windage and elevation. Integral Picatinny-style accessory rails on the laser body are handy for adding a white tactical light and an infrared laser designator. Although I haven’t been too keen on lasers in general, this one works well.

■ SIGHTS, STOCK

I grew up with traditional open sights, and the 10/22 Carbine comes prepared. It is fitted with a gold bead front sight that is dovetailed into a base so it can be adjusted for windage. The no-nonsense folding leaf rear sight is adjustable for both windage and elevation.

The composite stock has a checkered curved molded butt, and there is molded checkering on the grip surface and forend. Smaller shooters may like the 13.5-inch length of pull, but it was a bit short for me.

Oddly, there are no sling swivel studs or molded attaching pads for QD swivels anywhere on the stock. To me, this seems like a manufac-

turing omission that may turn out to be an error on Ruger's part. One could solve the problem easily enough with a Vero Velini sling or similar product that doesn't require swivels.

■ MAGAZINES AND MORE

This rifle features Ruger's improved magazine release, which is much better than before. On my older model 10/22, the 10-round magazine releases by pressing a latch right behind the magazine well. On newer versions, including this one, a synthetic lever projects downward. Press the lever forward to release the magazine.

I'm a devoted fan of the 10/22 rotary magazine. I have two for my personal rifle, one in basic black and the other a clear model from a few years ago. I also have one of Ruger's superb 25-round BX-25 magazines to extend the fun. I like the 25-round magazine, but I feel dumb because it makes shooting up a hundred rounds too doggone easy. If you're thinking about a 10/22, you'd better plan on having spare magazines.

In an e-mail to Ruger's Ken Jorgensen in the middle of this project, I noted that, in my humble opinion, Ruger has always

made good barrels for the 10/22 and I'll stand by that. This one is cold hammer-forged, and is cut with six lands and grooves on a 1:16-inch right hand twist.

■ MOUNT UP

Further proof that Ruger thinks of just about everything, a scope base adaptor is supplied with the 10/22 Carbine LaserMax. The scope base adaptor fastens to the top of the receiver and accepts Weaver-style and tip-off scope mounts. Once I had satisfied myself that the iron sights were spot-on right out of the box, I mounted the base and put on one of my favorite rimfire scopes.

However, there is a drawback with the scope base adaptor arrangement: once the rail is



▲ The updated magazine release lever and the legendary Ruger 10-round rotary box magazine.

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The 10/22 LaserMax laser sight easily switches on/off with an ambidextrous switch. Note the red dot of light emitting from the unit.



The folding rear sight is adjustable for both windage and elevation.



Top view of the Laser-Max accessory rails, ideal mounting points for lights to pursue nocturnal activities.

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The gold bead front sight is drift adjustable for windage.

⦿ SPECIFICATIONS

Ruger 10/22 Carbine LaserMax

Manufacturer: Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.

Model: 10/22 Carbine
(with LaserMax laser)

Caliber: .22 Long Rifle

Capacity: 10 rounds

Barrel: 18.5 inches, blued steel

Receiver: Alloy steel

Stock: Black synthetic

LOP: 13.5 inches

Weight: 5 pounds

OAL: 37 inches

Sights: Gold bead front,
adjustable leaf rear, LaserMax laser

MSRP: \$399



► For maximum sighting flexibility, Workman mounted his trusty Bushnell Banner 1.75-4X on the Ruger-supplied scope base adaptor.

mounted, it is not possible to use the rear sight.

■ SHOT PLACEMENT

From a sandbag rest, once I got the Bushnell 1.75-4X Banner scope adjusted, I started shooting little chunks of broken orange clay targets at 25 yards. It's pretty similar to shooting blue grouse in the head when they're perched on a tree limb or sitting stock still on a log, trying to be invisible.

Rabbits can be an easier challenge because they are bigger and tend to stand still at times, apparently hoping to go unnoticed. Many a plump bunny has filled a pan or pot because somebody could handle an accurate .22-caliber rifle, and

the rabbit just stayed still too long for its own good. Cottontails or snowshoe hares, it makes no difference. They can't outrun a bullet, and I would not be gambling to say that lots of rabbits have fallen to the Ruger 10/22 over the past 50 years.

Tin cans were made for target practice, and I keep a supply of empties for just such shooting opportunities. A good-sized tin can is about the same size as the upper body of a rabbit, and the ends are about the size of the head. Lay one of these on its side at 25 yards and plug away with the 10/22, and soon you will be begging for hunting season to come back around.

■ NO PROBLEMS

There were no malfunctions with the rifle while I was evaluating it, and I deliberately used some old rounds along with a lot of fresh ones, just to see if this 10/22 would choke or cough a little. The Ruger didn't give a speck of trouble, only dead-bang accuracy.

I cannot recall a 10/22 malfunctioning in my presence. One can presume it happens, but it must be so rare that it would qualify as news. Considering the millions of rounds of rimfire ammunition that have gone through Ruger 10/22s over the past half-century without major malfunctions, it's probably some kind of record. It is certainly a testament to the reliability of the model.

■ ENVISION

At 37 inches OAL, the 10/22 Carbine LaserMax will swing fast in the brush or the barnyard, and it can be a real workhorse. I would have no qualms tossing it behind the truck seat in a gun case with a box of shells to make sure I had a firearm along on a jaunt into the mountains.

The tough, all-weather synthetic stock means the Ruger 10/22 Carbine could be a terrific trail gun because it is so light. At five pounds, one could easily sling it over a shoulder along with a backpack or daypack and not really notice it.

Or it could also be a fine companion for hiking in the woods where the light might not be the best. This is where the laser could come in very handy because you can spot small game and zero on dinner with the red dot.





Serious precision shooting stabilized by this Caldwell sandbag rest.



▲ Iron sights, the LaserMax laser sight, and the scope all produced remarkable groups, with the 10/22 consistently shooting to the point of aim.

WE HAVE A WINNER

The Ruger 10/22 Carbine LaserMax will likely appeal to those who

appreciate and like using technological advances, even on a .22 rifle. I think this gun's laser will defi-

nately have a use in the field, but remember that the iron sights and a mounted scope will carry the day most of the time.

Having written about guns for several years, one can always tell a real winner because it's the one you don't want to send back. I'm happy to admit the 10/22 Carbine LaserMax falls into that category. I like the 10/22 and it easily has another 50 years over the horizon. **GW**

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TODAY'S HUNTER

A large herd of elk is gathered in a field of tall, dry grass. The elk are of various ages and sizes, with some showing prominent antlers. They are all looking in different directions, some towards the camera and others away. The background is a hilly landscape with sparse vegetation and a clear sky.

When a herd of elk senses potential danger, they will often bunch together before stringing off in single file. The smart hunter will wait for a clear shot, and if it isn't possible an opportunity may present itself as the animals begin to move out.



Becoming *ELK POSITIVE*

Text and Photos by Thomas C. Tabor

6 Common Sense Tips to Help You Search, Spot and Shoot

Most hunters who have taken up the challenge of putting brown on the ground in elk country will be quick to point out that being successful is a daunting challenge for any hunter, from novices to experts. Patterning the movements of an elk herd can be extremely difficult, and if you are lucky enough to get an opportunity to squeeze the trigger you may also find these animals to be bullet resistant at times.



The elk's propensity to hang to the top of the ridges in open country can present opportunities after the animals have moved over the top. By moving quickly to the crest a hunter can sometimes get an opportunity to squeeze off a shot.

Nevertheless, by understanding how the elk's mind operates and combining that knowledge with some tips I have found useful over the years, I hope you will soon be successful in tying your tag on the antlers of one of these magnificent animals.

■ OPEN COUNTRY MOVEMENTS

Hunting any game in open country can be difficult, but when you are trying to approach a herd of elk with up to 200 eyes searching for impending danger it can sometimes seem impossible to overcome. But understanding how elk think in these types of situations can help you to be successful.

The elk instinctively knows that open terrain provides them the ability to spot any approaching danger long before it can become a threat

to them. That is why you often find a herd standing on an open hillside that is elevated from surrounding terrain and devoid of any cover taller than your own knee caps, or in the center of an agricultural field well away from anything that could hide its approach.

When in open terrain, the elk will most often take advantage of the ridge tops in order to move from one area to another. They do that because it provides them the best possible opportunity to monitor both sides of the hill for any threats, but in some cases this can set the scene for an ambush of the herd. Eventually, upon reaching their intended destination, the majority of the herd may drop over the edge, but often one or more animals will linger behind for a time to act as sentry.

This is where you must exercise



a bit of patience, because those lookouts will usually join up with the herd. Your best tactic in this type of situation is to simply stay put and out of sight until you can approach the crest and peer over without detection.

■ THE WOLF FACTOR

As the chill of winter starts to descend on the area, the elk will usually have an inclination to move away from the high country and seek out easier grazing at lower terrains. But because they instinctively know that the high country usually provides them a certain amount of protection, they are sometimes reluctant to leave too quickly. In many areas, however, the encroachment of the wolves will significantly disrupt typical elk movement.

The wolf factor will, in essence, throw a wild card into the mix, mak-

ing it much more difficult to predict wintertime herd movements. If the wolves make their way into the high country, it can drive the elk to lower terrain much earlier than normal and in some cases cause them to avoid the high country completely. This has, on occasion, brought the elk into significant conflict with farmers and ranchers who do not necessarily like losing their valuable feed crops to the elk herds. On the other hand, if the wolves are not in the immediate area, the high country will generally hold the herd for some time after the freezing weather and snow has begun. In this interim period between the heart of winter and the first snows, the wise hunter watches the south facing slopes because these are the areas that melt off the quickest and frequently hold the best grazing potential for the herd.

■ WHERE THE BULLS ARE

If you are lucky enough to have your elk season open during the bulging rut this is a great time for hunting. Usually in late August or in early September the bulls become preoccupied with their love making, keeping their harem of cows rounded up and running off any rival bulls encroaching on their territory. Because the entire herd is in a heightened state of preoccupation at this time, it can make a stealthy approach a bit easier.

During the rut the bulls are constantly on the move. The herd bull is occupied attempting to keep his cows rounded up and the younger bulls are attempting to sneak in for a little action of their own. After the rut comes to an end, however, everything changes. At this time the bulls become considerably less aggressive to one another and begin hanging out together. They still remain a part of the herd, but will most often be found around the fringes.

Because of this, the wise hunter will look to the outer edges of the herd to locate a bull. And if the entire herd is not fully visible, it becomes imperative that those outer areas be thoroughly investigated for a bull that might be standing in the shadows of the timber, or just over the adjacent hillside.

■ KEEP SHOOTING

An elk is an extremely tough animal, and for that reason alone I strongly recommend—even if you think your shot was a good one—to stay put for a time and keep your eye glued to the scope lens in case a backup shot is needed.



Agricultural cropland is a great place to find elk, and sometimes the landowner will be open to allowing you hunting access.



▲ Tom took this nice old bull using his Ruger 1B single shot chambered in .300 Win. Mag. The shot was in open terrain at about 300 yards.

lets were only available as hand-loading components, but today all can be found loaded in factory produced ammunition, as well as bullets for reloading. But just like all things in life, good quality products typically carry a higher price than products meant to simply attract customers with their low price. Nevertheless, the cost of ammunition always pales in comparison to the other costs associated with most any hunt.

So go ahead and drive around looking for the lowest price on gas to fill your tank, select a bargain fluorescent hunting vest, or cut corners on the lunch meat for your sandwich, but never attempt to do the same when it comes to the ammunition you intend to use for your elk hunt.

■ SIGHTING-IN

Approaching a large herd of elk can be difficult, and occasionally calls for longer range shooting. That being the case, many hunters prefer

■ BULLET AND AMMO QUALITY

Nowhere is there a greater need for good quality ammunition than when your crosshairs have settled on the shoulder of an elk. The combination of tautly stretched muscles and tremendously heavy bone mass can literally shred a poorly constructed bullet. So if I had only one piece of advice, it would have been this: do not compromise on the quality of bullets or ammunition. This is not the place for ammunition from the “bargain basket” sales that some sporting goods dealers run to draw potential customers into their shop.

If you’ve read my column in the past, you probably already know that I have very strong preferences when it comes to hunting big game. My own personal favorites include the Nosler Partition, Barnes’ Triple-Shock X (or the Tipped Triple-Shock X), Swift’s A-Frame and the Norma Oryx. Even though the internal design of these bullets varies, sometimes quite dramatically, they all hold together well, penetrate deep, possess good frontal expansion and retain a high degree of penetration. Those are the factors necessary if you want to be consistently successful while elk hunting.

At one time many of these bul-



to sight their rifles in to shoot a couple of inches high at 100 yards. Part of the logic behind doing so is that it helps eliminate the necessity of thinking about trajectory drop when your adrenaline is pumping and that bull of a lifetime is standing broadside 300 yards from you. With some flat shooting calibers this would allow you to simply place your scope's crosshairs on the intended area of impact, squeeze off the shot and still have your bullet fall nicely within the kill zone.

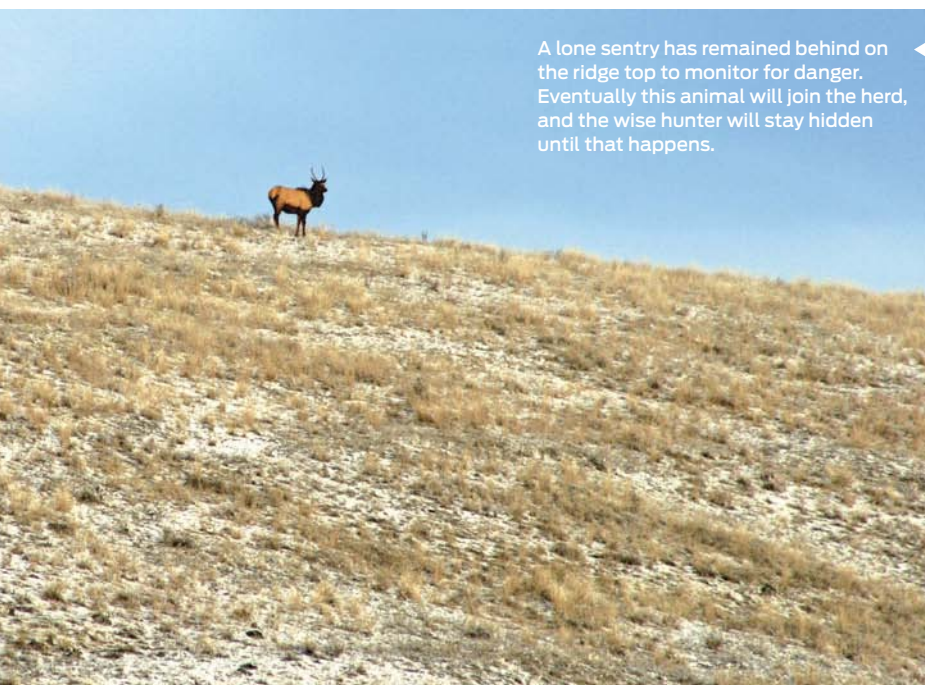
How high you decide to sight your rifle in is essentially dependant on how long you anticipate the shots to be and how flat shooting your cartridge is. For example, if you are shooting a .30-06 you might opt to sight your rifle in to shoot about 3 inches high at 100 yards, while a hunter shooting a .300 Winchester Magnum may decide on only 2 inches high due to the .300's flatter shooting capabilities.

Remember that all bullets fly in an arc pattern, typically leaving the

muzzle of the barrel under the line of sight. Sighting your rifle in to shoot a bit high at 100 yards could actually be beneficial if an animal unexpectedly presents itself at very close range.

■ THE WAY I SEE IT

With the possible exception of bighorn sheep, no other North American animal holds the admiration of hunters more than the elk. The elk is an impressive critter that makes a striking trophy, and is possibly second only to sheep when it comes to table fare. All this makes the elk one of our most cherished game animals for the hunter. Many hundreds of thousands of miles are traveled each and every year in hopes of squeezing the trigger on one of these superb animals, and if you succeed in that endeavor you can be very proud of your accomplishment. **GW**



A lone sentry has remained behind on the ridge top to monitor for danger. Eventually this animal will join the herd, and the wise hunter will stay hidden until that happens.

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RELOAD





THE RELOADER'S *Chemistry Set*

Text & Photos by James E. House

It Takes More than Quality Dies, Cases and Powder to Keep the Reloading Process Running Smoothly

Someone who works on cars needs more than wrenches. Parts and tools need to be cleaned, protected, and lubricated. In the same way, those of us who load a lot of ammunition need more than just a press, dies, and the components. Cases should be properly cleaned, and they must generally be lubricated during the resizing step. During the removal of spent primers, debris collects on the press ram so it needs to be cleaned periodically. These are just a few of the operations involving the use of chemicals by the reloader. In this piece, I want to describe some of the chemical formulations that have worked well for me. There are many products from various suppliers that may work just as well, but I do not mention them if I haven't tried them.

Several products are useful in performing operations during reloading.



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■ CASE LUBE

When I first started loading over half a century ago, the choice of products was only a fraction of what it is today. My older shooting buddy of those bygone years indoctrinated me in the hobby and he used lanolin to lubricate the outside of cases. Lanolin is made

from sheep wool and it is a sticky, gooey material that does not have a pleasant smell. He used powdered graphite for lubricating the inside of case necks so they would move over the expander plug. For a long time, I followed the practices that I learned from him. Eventually, I tried another type of case lube but it too

was a sticky slime that was hard to remove from the outside of cases without using some sort of organic solvent.

After traveling the long and winding road to product selection, I discovered Lee Resizing Lubricant. It is a white cream that comes in a plastic tube, so it's as convenient to

use as toothpaste. I apply it to cases by simply putting a dab on my finger and rubbing it along the case, letting a very small amount go over the case mouth into the neck. That lubricates the case for the work of the expander plug. Moreover, after the case has been sized,

the lubricant is easily removed by simply wiping the case with a paper towel or a piece of cloth. It's readily cleaned from your hands by simply washing them with warm water. I know there are other case lubricants that work well, but Lee Resizing Lubricant does all that I need.



Lubricating cases during resizing is necessary and the Lee product works well.

■ CASE CLEANING

I have become very particular about how my cases look, so I expend a lot of effort to achieve the result I want. After resizing and de-priming, I first use an ultrasound bath which cleans the inside, outside, and primer pocket. The usual cleaner used in ultrasonic baths is citric acid. It's available as a concentrated solution that must be diluted before use. Solid citric acid is also available in health food stores and in the canning section of some supermarkets because it is used in a variety of food products. I sometimes make my own solutions using solid citric acid by adding about half a teaspoon to a quart of water.

In addition to cleaning cases in an ultrasonic bath, I find it useful to clean them with a case tumbler in which I use a corn cob or walnut abrasive and some liquid commercial cleaner. I have tried a few types of tumblers, and all work well, but the tumbler I use most is one sold by Cabela's. My Cabela's tumbler came with a bottle of cleaner, and I found that the combination worked superbly, so I stuck with it.

■ CASE POLISHING

Even though my cases come from the tumbler clean and bright, I want more. Therefore, I take an extra step, especially if the cases have some stubborn tarnish. One of the two processes that I employ is briskly rubbing the case with 0000 steel wool. This will remove tarnish and clean right to the metal surface, especially on sooty case necks. The second step I often take involves commercial brass polish. Every supermarket has brass polish in the cleaning supplies section, and the one I settled on is called Mr.



The effect of thoroughly cleaning cases is illustrated in this before-and-after photo.



Rubbing cases with brass polish on a piece of flannel adds an attractive finishing touch.

Metal. The stuff really works. It contains ammonia, like some other brass polishes, and can cause skin irritation, so you may want to wear thin rubber gloves or at least wash your hands right after using such a product. If you want that highly polished look to your ammunition, then you should definitely end your case preparation with a little brass polish.

OTHER GOODIES

In addition to the cleaning and polishing formulations, I use a variety of other chemicals on a regular basis. To prevent rust on dies and other equipment, I use a general cleaning and lubricating product. One product that works especially well is G96® Gun Treatment, which is available in 4.5 and 12-ounce cans. It removes light rust, protects metal surfaces, and provides lubrication. I also occasionally wipe the

insides of dies with a cloth sprayed with WD-40 for cleaning and rust prevention.

Although intended as a solvent for gun cleaning, Hoppe's No. 9 is useful for other cleaning purposes. I was not around when it was introduced in 1903, but Hoppe's No. 9 and I go back a very long way. For many years, it was the only gun cleaning solvent that I used. Hoppe's No. 9 is flammable and contains compounds that can be absorbed through the skin. It dissolves copper and gilding metal bullet residues in barrels as well as those from nitrocellulose based propellants. Follow all safety

notices listed on the bottle. Also, Hoppe's No. 9 will dissolve nickel, which has many of the characteristics of copper, and it should be wiped from nickel plated guns quickly.

A few other items may be used occasionally in my loading, but these constitute my essential chemistry set on the loading bench.

Other suppliers offer products that perform the same functions and you may have your favorite brands. However, products that perform these functions are indispensable for producing ammunition that looks good and performs well, and for keeping reloading tools clean and rust-free. **GW**

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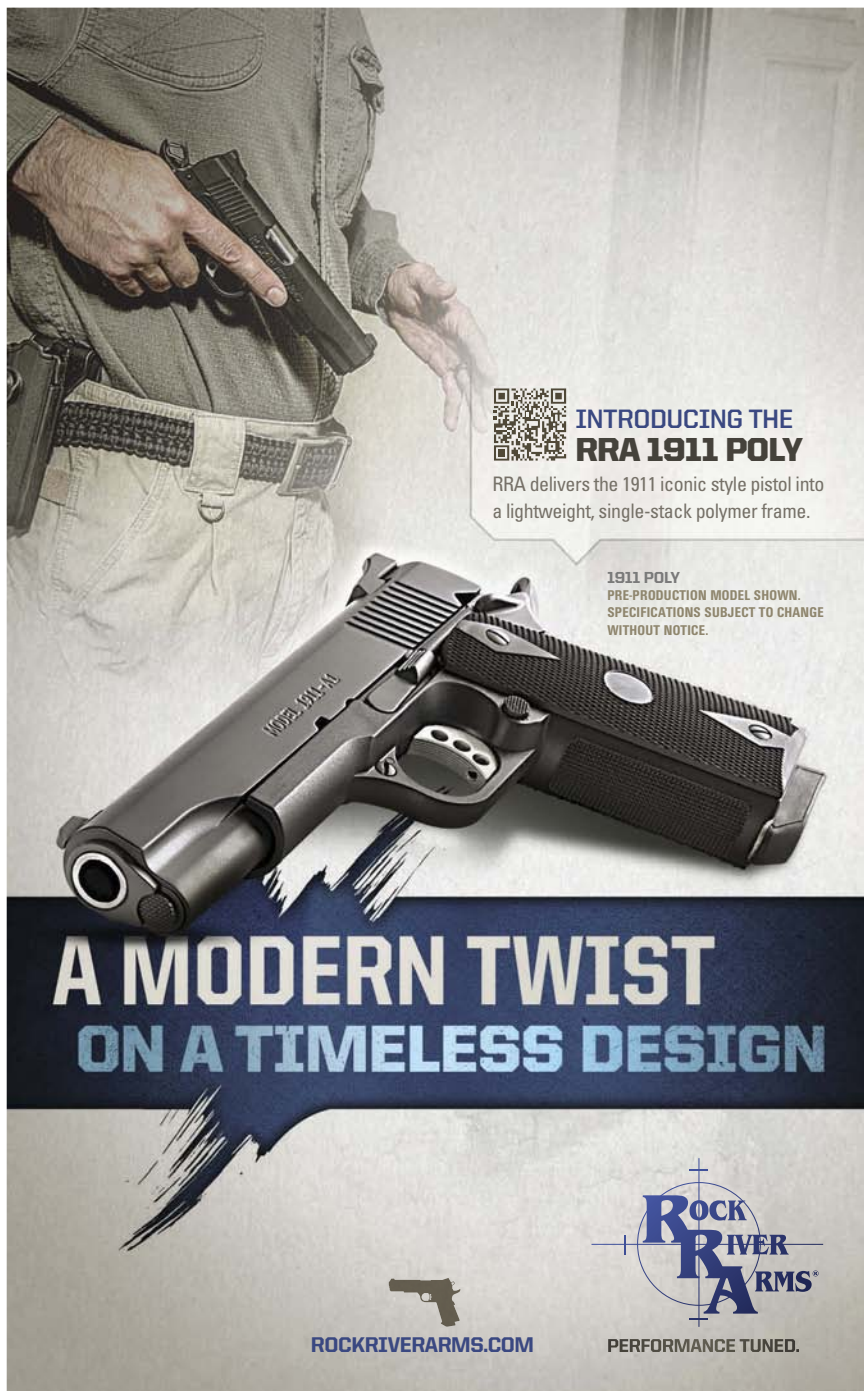
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HANDGUNS



SHOT

Show Trifecta

Text & Photos by Dave Workman

Three Product Introductions Make a Favorable Impression During Industry Day at the Range



Visiting the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in Las Vegas invariably includes a trek to a big gun range out by Boulder that provides gun writers an opportunity to check out some of the new guns and ammunition, and I took full advantage of the day.

Workman tries out the latest Ruger SR1911, the Lightweight with an aluminum frame.

Among the best new entries, in my humble opinion, is Ruger's SR1911 Lightweight Commander-Style pistol, which was so impressive that I'm going to have a test gun shipped out for a more in-depth review in an upcoming issue.

It's widely known I'm a fan of the Colt Lightweight Commander, a .45-caliber pistol that is my typical carry gun. Ruger's new entry is a sweetheart with a couple of features that make it a winner.

First, at the range I hit everything I shot at. Second — and this is important — Ruger designers added a remarkably intelligent feature that could make this pistol the best of its genre. It's got a polished titanium feed ramp. That single design upgrade from the original aluminum-framed lightweight pistol gives the Ruger what I believe will be the winning edge. Titanium is an

incredible material that is light, rugged and — in this specific function — could easily last a lifetime.

Another thing people will like is the thinness of the hardwood grip panels. This pistol will fit the hands of most people, and during the show, I actually recommended to a small lady I visited with to sprint to the Ruger exhibit and wrap her petite hand around the SR1911.

Ruger supplies this 29.3-ounce pistol with two seven-round magazines, a bushing wrench, three-dot Novak LoMount sights and more. It's got a beavertail grip safety, a titanium firing pin, and the popular "Series 70" design. It comes with a soft case.

I could have spent the entire range day shooting this pistol, and I plan to remedy that unsatisfied need in the near future. I will detail my further experiences with this

pistol at the earliest possible opportunity in these pages.

■ WINCHESTER TRAIN & DEFEND

The perfect match-up for Ruger's new lightweight is Winchester's W Train & Defend ammunition line. Winchester has carefully produced a family of ammunition that matches training bullet weights with duty bullet weights. The principle is brilliant.

A shooter trains with ammunition that is literally identical to what one carries on the street for duty or personal protection. For example, the .45 ACP loads feature a 230-grain FMJ for training on the range and a 230-grain JHP for serious social work. Both rounds push their respective projectiles out of the muzzle at 850 fps and when I ran them both at the range through a

“Titanium is an incredible material that is light, rugged and — in this specific function — could easily last a lifetime.”



▲ One feature Workman likes is the SR1911's titanium feed ramp. He plans to get a test gun for a full-blown evaluation in these pages soon.



▲ Winchester's Train & Defend ammunition solves the problem of training with loads that differ from loads carried for personal defense. Both the training and business loads have identical bullet weights and comparable powder charges for consistency.

Kimber .45, they shot to the same point of aim.

This is the kind of thing a careful handloader strives for — matching his practice ammo with what he might use in a match or for personal protection. I did that for several years when I was competing in matches, and when I was simply practicing for more serious work. Winchester now does that for us all.

Available in several calibers ranging upwards from .380 ACP, Train & Defend is packaged with 50 rounds in the Train boxes and 20 rounds in the Defend boxes. The Train rounds are loaded in brass cases and lead-free primers, while the Defend ammo comes with nickel-plated brass. There are also loads in 9mm, .38 Special and .40 S&W.

Each box features load infor-

mation, and they are clearly marked so there can be no mistaking what is inside.

■ CRIMSON TRACE M&P BODYGUARD VERSION

Smith & Wesson had its Crimson Trace version of the M&P Bodyguard semi-auto in .380 ACP at the range, and I put several rounds through it. The pistol has an integral Crimson Trace laser housed in the front of the frame.

This one carries six rounds in the magazine with one in the chamber, and will easily fit in smaller hands, making it a grand choice for women. The size also allows someone to carry this pistol in their pocket, purse, an ankle holster, or one of the so-called “tuckable” deep cover rigs including the one I designed nearly 20 years ago that

seems to have launched a lot of clones.

The M&P Bodyguard comes with two magazines. One has a finger rest floor plate that extends down slightly and forward below the grip, and the other has a flat floor plate. The polymer frame has a textured surface on both sides for a solid hold even with wet hands, and the front and rear sights are dovetailed so they can be adjusted for windage.

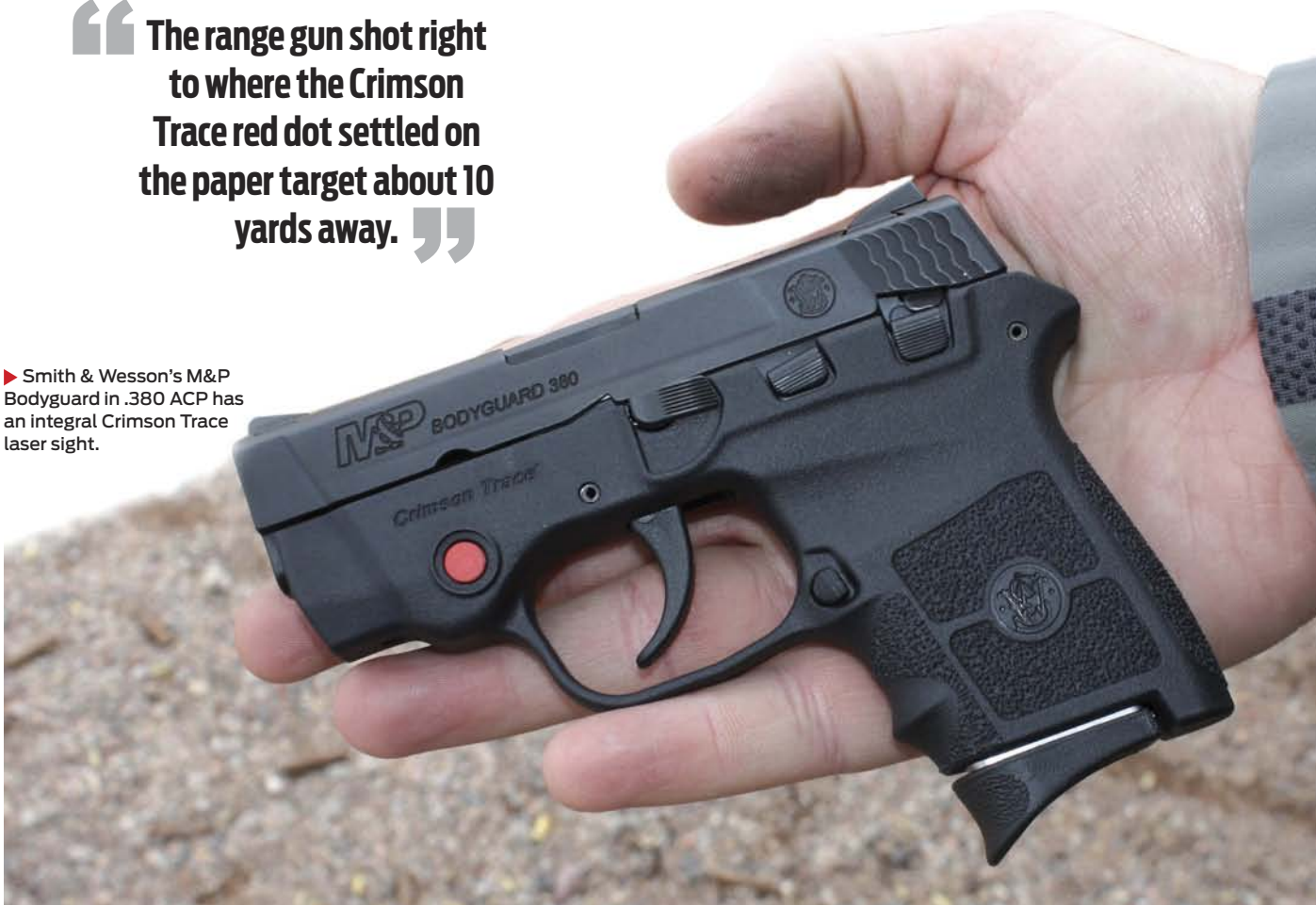
This double-action-only hammer-fired semi-auto comes in a soft case with an interior pouch for the pistol and a separate pouch for the spare magazine. I was particularly impressed by that, simply because it's always been my impression that when a person grabs a pistol and heads for the door, there ought to be spare ammunition.



▲ Workman found that the little .380 ACP powerhouse was reliable and accurate during a range session at the January SHOT Show.

“ The range gun shot right to where the Crimson Trace red dot settled on the paper target about 10 yards away. ”

► Smith & Wesson's M&P Bodyguard in .380 ACP has an integral Crimson Trace laser sight.



Recoil is easily manageable, and the range gun shot right to where the Crimson Trace red dot settled on the paper target about 10 yards away. That's not bad for a pistol I hadn't fired before.

I know several people who own earlier versions of the M&P Bodyguard, and they are sold on the design and the concept. The pistol I fired was completely reliable, and it fed every round. With its second strike capability, the M&P Crimson Trace Bodyguard weighs 12.3 ounces and measures 5.25 inches overall.

The stainless steel slide has a matte black finish and a 2.75-inch barrel. It's got an MSRP of \$449.00.

GW



▲ S&W supplies a carrying case with pouches for the pistol and spare magazine with the M&P Bodyguard.



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GUNSMITHING



The Glock, with match barrel installed, can increase the confidence of any shooter.

Barreling *AHEAD*

Text & Photos by Steve Sieberts

The Glock pistol is arguably one of the most successful handgun designs in history. It incorporated several revolutionary features, including a polymer frame and components, a simplified design using fewer internal working parts and the “Safe Action” internal safety mechanism. Interestingly, many of the Glock’s core elements are now essential to polymer pistols.



The Bar-Sto MT barrel has given excellent use over the last twenty years.



Apply blue marker ink to bottom lug, test fit and check for high spots.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

I purchased my first Glock, the Model 17, shortly after I attended the Glock Armorer's course in the early 1990's. At the time I was a gunsmith with a Department of Defense (DoD) contractor building small arms prototypes and performing R&D work, so, of course, I was not about to leave the pistol in its stock configuration.

Before buying the M17, my boss and I visited Irv Stone's facility and met with Irv Stone III. We were building 1911 pistols for the DoD and considered switching barrels from a competitor's product to use the Bar-Sto barrels exclusively. After spending a couple days at his facil-

ity, we were very impressed with his operation's production and quality control.

Shortly after that trip, I invested in a Match Target (MT) barrel for my Glock 17. The accuracy I was getting from the factory barrel was adequate for a service pistol, but as a former Bullseye shooter with the Army Shooting Team, I wanted more accuracy than the factory barrel could deliver.

Using decent ammunition and the original equipment barrel, my Glock produced groups averaging 3-4 inches at 25 yards. I wanted to cut that group size in half or better, and I was sure upgrading to a good target barrel would do the job.



The scribe shows where the bottom of the barrel lug sits on the Glock locking block during lockup. Do not remove material from the locking block; only remove material from the bottom of the barrel step.

■ MATCH GRADE BARRELS

For the Glock 17, Bar-Sto offers stainless match grade barrels in two configurations: Semi Fit (SF) and Match Target (MT).

Semi Fit barrels typically deliver 5-shot groups of about 1.5 inches at 25 yards and 3-inch to 3.5-inch groups at 50 yards. Match Target barrels usually are good for 5-shot groups of 1 inch or less at 25 yards and 2.5- to 3-inch groups at 50 yards.

This is excellent accuracy from what is still essentially a service pistol.

■ GENEROUS DIMENSIONS

Both match grade Glock barrels are slightly oversized on the bottom locking surface and the length of the top locking area of the hood.

The Semi-Fit barrel probably won't just drop in place, but it might. The MT barrel is oversized to enable the builder to shape the barrel for the best fit. It's always best to check the fit of any replacement

part before removing any material.

One of the first examinations to make when fitting the Semi-Fitted barrel is to see if the barrel will go up into battery in the slide. There should be a little bit of material to take off the front part of the locking surface if required.

Although the MT barrels are intentionally larger than the finished part's design dimensions, eliminate any excess steel slowly. I don't recommend using files when fitting these barrels. It's easy to remove too much metal, and then you have lost the advantage of installing the Target barrel.

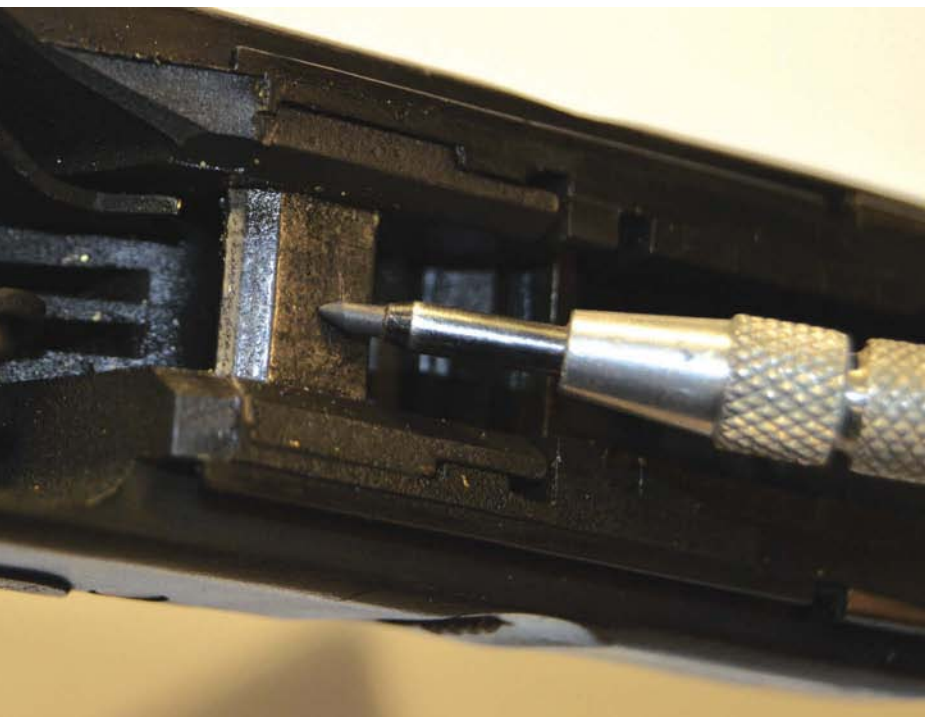
The tight fit between the slide and barrel is a large portion of the accuracy equation. Other key factors include dimensionally close tolerances of the lands and grooves and precision manufacturing of the bore.

■ TOOLS

To fit either of these barrels properly, you need good tools to get good results. The tools are pretty basic and uncomplicated to use.

A quality set of stones is mandatory, because you'll be using both the soft India stones and hard Arkansas stones constantly throughout the fitting process. Files can be efficient cutting tools in experienced hands, but I recommend using slow-cutting, soft India stones for the majority of the fitting.

Other tools include a bench block or vise to secure the work, a soft-faced hammer to tap the barrel, a blue Magic Marker or Sharpie to mark the high spots that need work, powerful lights, and a magnifying glass or jeweler's loupe.



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It's a good idea to measure the ejection port opening, and then measure the length of the hood on the barrel (shown). Subtract the barrel hood length from the ejection port to get an idea of how much material to remove from the barrel.

■ FITTING

I like to fit a barrel to the point that it stays in battery while holding the slide horizontal when it's off the frame. When you hold the slide and barrel horizontally, the barrel should only fall out if you apply very light finger pressure; it should not fall out of battery from its own weight. You want the barrel to be snug at lockup for best accuracy.

After the front locking lug is dressed down enough to allow the barrel to go into battery in the slide, it's time to check that the barrel is square in lockup. If it isn't, the sides of the barrel hood are probably rubbing in the slide.

Look to see which way it's cant-



▲ You can fit this barrel with nothing more than a Sharpie and a square India stone. Take your time to fit and try.

ing, and with the lug pointing down and the muzzle facing away from you, remove material from the side of the hood opposite from the cant. If the lug cants to the left, remove material from the right side of the hood and vice-versa.

A good technique for checking hood clearance is to push the barrel up into the battery position and hold it up to the light to look through the slide/barrel area and see where it's rubbing. There should be daylight on both sides of the barrel hood.

Once you have the barrel fitted to the slide, the next step is to fit the bottom pad where it sits on top of the locking block. Always fit the barrel to the slide first, and then fit the bottom portion of the barrel to the locking block second. (See photo)

Check for high spots with the Magic Marker and only remove material where the marker has rubbed off. Stone a little, apply the marker,

and try to install the barrel, then disassemble and look for high spots. This tells you where you should stone or file to remove metal.

Once you have fitted both surfaces, it's a good idea to touch up the edges with the hard Arkansas stone to break any sharp edges for a smooth fit.

Now that the barrel is installed, you must function test it with dummy ammunition. I usually load

four or five dummy rounds and cycle them hard through the pistol. This closely simulates the firing cycle and can tell you if the pistol is going to function properly with live ammo.

■ RANGE WORK

To finish the job, take the gun to the range and shoot it a lot.

I take various types of ammunition — including round-nose bullets and hollowpoints from different



Here I'm tapping the barrel up into the battery position in the slide to fit. I'll stone a little, re-apply my Sharpie, and then try to tap into place. Remove the barrel and look for high spots where the Sharpie has rubbed off; these are places that need work.



▲ The Glock 17 produces excellent 5-shot groups at 25 yards.

manufacturers — to run through the gun after a modification like this.

Taking different rounds can show you which ammunition works best.

If the gun is for competition or defense, use the same kind of ammunition that you would use in a pistol match or defensive situation.

For this article I decided to use the excellent Remington Ultimate Defense 124-grain round. Results were excellent, as expected, and I was able to hold 5-shot 1.5-inch groups off a sandbag all day long at 25 yards.

■ TWENTY YEARS PLUS

I fitted a Bar-Sto barrel to my Glock 17 more than twenty years ago to improve the pistol's accuracy. Back then, the modified Glock easily punched groups measuring less than two inches at 25 yards. The gun still works well with any ammunition, including reloads. After thousands of rounds and two decades of use, my Bar-Sto/Glock 17 currently gives me sub-two-inch groups when I do my part. **GW**

CONTACT

Bar-Sto Precision Machine
(605) 720-4000
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Remington Arms Company
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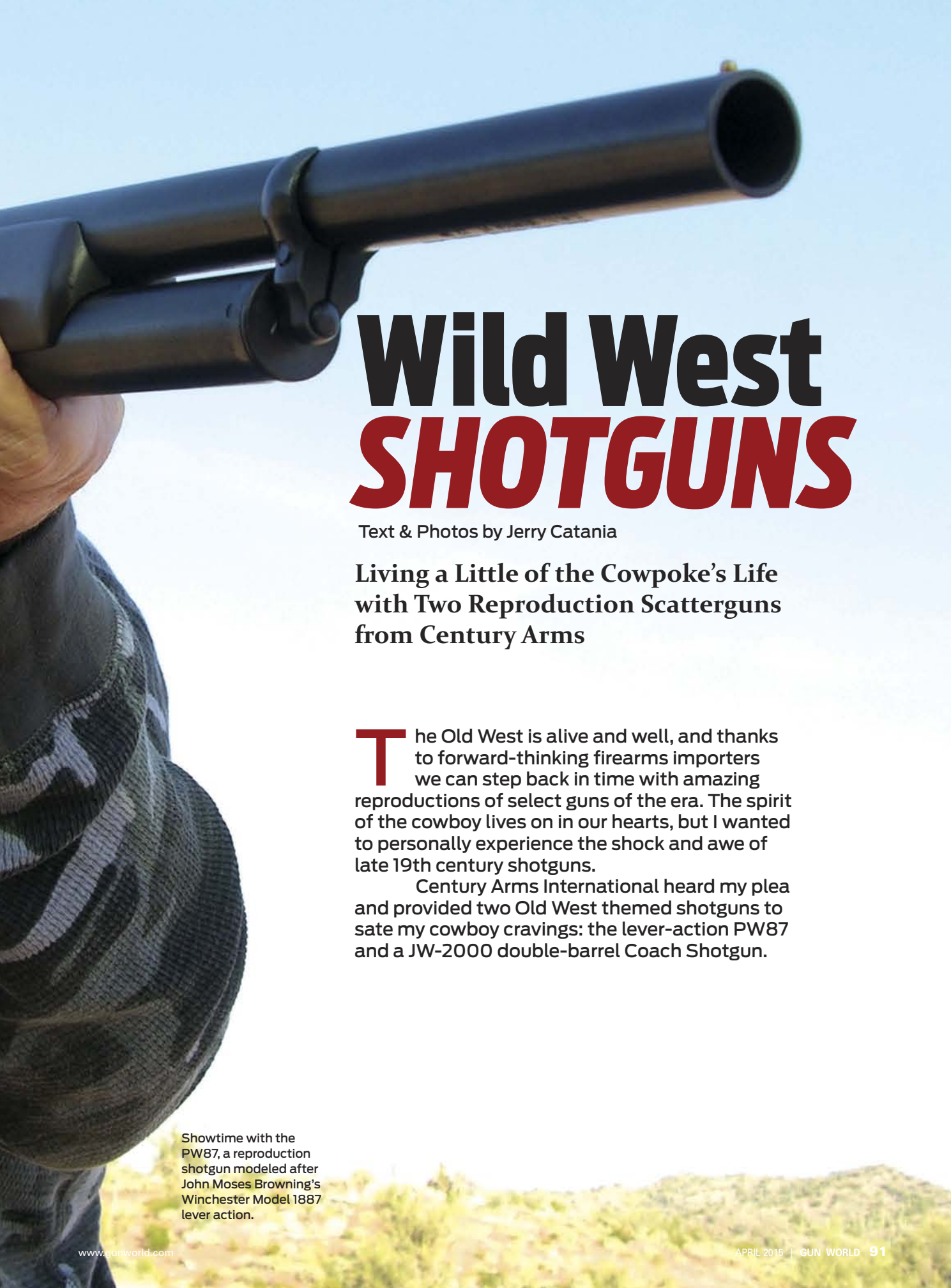
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Wild West *SHOTGUNS*

Text & Photos by Jerry Catania

**Living a Little of the Cowpoke's Life
with Two Reproduction Scatterguns
from Century Arms**

The Old West is alive and well, and thanks to forward-thinking firearms importers we can step back in time with amazing reproductions of select guns of the era. The spirit of the cowboy lives on in our hearts, but I wanted to personally experience the shock and awe of late 19th century shotguns.

Century Arms International heard my plea and provided two Old West themed shotguns to sate my cowboy cravings: the lever-action PW87 and a JW-2000 double-barrel Coach Shotgun.

Showtime with the PW87, a reproduction shotgun modeled after John Moses Browning's Winchester Model 1887 lever action.



▲ The JW-2000 Coach Shotgun, manufactured by Century Arms.

■ ANCESTRY

The PW87 is based on a John Moses Browning design, the Winchester Model 1887 lever action shotgun. Browning pitched a pump action shotgun to Winchester; however, in the late 1800s, Winchester was doing quite well with lever action firearms, so Browning submitted the drawings for what became the Model 1887.

The Model 1887 was the first breech-loading, rolling block lever action shotgun, and was chambered for 10- or 12-gauge black powder cartridges. By 1901 smokeless powder was here to stay, and although the 1887 underwent a handful of design modifications to accommodate the higher chamber pressures generated by smokeless powder, the fundamental design elements remained the same.

■ LOTS OF PERSONALITY

Although the Model 1887 was pretty much cutting edge at the time, it did have a few inherent

characteristics that the PW87 shares. For example, to load the gun, you had to insert shells through the top of the open action. Loading the PW87 with five rounds in the magazine tube—like the original—is both tedious and slow. It's harder if you have short thick fingers like me.

Another was a limitation on the length of the fired hull, which, in all fairness, Browning could not have foreseen. The shotgun shells of the 1870's were mostly made of brass (although Winchester developed the paper hull in 1877), not plastic as they are today.

The problem is that the crimp of the plastic hulls and the length of the 2.75-inch shells after firing is longer than the ejection mechanism can reliably handle.

Last, the 1887/PW87 has no real safety device. The hammer must be held with your thumb and eased down immediately after pulling the trigger. The safety notch is less than 1/4-inch from the full cock position; it is kind of tricky to

feel. The safety was easy to drop it into position, but nearly impossible to pull back to full cock without using both thumbs. Whether this is a problem with the originals I cannot say; but it was with the PW87. However, I can live with that by not having a live shell in the chamber.

The lever action of the PW87 works both smoothly and quickly, and I can rack in a live shell in a split second.

■ SHOOT REVIEW

The mechanical sounds of the 1887 design give it an aura all its own. It's fascinating to listen as it clinks and snaps through the lever action cycle. The barrel's modified choke produced patterns that were very tight using Hornady loads.

Hornady's #4 Buckshot load (called the Varmint Express) was designed for coyote hunting and produced a perfectly centered and round pattern of about six inches in diameter at 35 feet, making that load suitable for defending the home against two-legged varmints.



“ I wanted to personally experience the shock and awe of late 19th century shotguns. ”



▲ A left side profile of the PW87

The fast handling stock has no recoil pad, but the kick was not bad; a good stock design by John Browning, no doubt. I did not shoot any heavy magnum type loads, either. The PW87 would make a great quail and rabbit gun.

Fit and finish were good, with wood-to-metal and metal-to-metal parts fitting together nicely with no gaps. The action was very tight at first but loosened up nicely as I continued to shoot (and, admittedly, as I enjoyed seemingly endless bouts dry firing; the cycling of the action is rather addicting).

The PW87 felt light and responsive, and was neat to use. Yeah, it's made in China (just like the computer I am typing this on), but it gives more of us a chance to own a classic piece of history for a very reasonable price.

■ COACH GUN?

The term Coach Gun was first used by Wells, Fargo & Co. in 1858 when the company began regular

stagecoach service from Tipton, MO to San Francisco, CA. Interestingly, the phrase “riding shotgun” appeared around 1919 in serialized Western fiction and moving pictures.

Several makers of the era were producing side-by-side shotguns with short double barrels, including Colt, Parker, Savage, Remington, and others. The guns originally had external exposed hammers, but hammerless models worked their way into the market.

Double barrel shotguns made the Wild West, well, wild. Used by outlaws and lawmen alike, the sawed off shotgun with barrels from eight to twenty inches (twenty inches was short for the black pow-

der era) made history. Famous names such as Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Billy the Kid, and Porter Rockwell used variants of the Coach Gun with deadly and legendary effect.

■ SOLID PERFORMANCE

Faithful to the basic original design, the JW-2000 worked perfectly. The barrels unlocked easily, yet were tightly fitted when the ac-



⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

SHOTGUNS PW87 / JW-2000

Importer: Century Arms

Model: PW87

Action: Rotating bolt,
lever action repeater

Gauge: 12, 2.75-inch chamber

Choke: Modified

Magazine: Tube

Capacity: 5 rounds

Barrel Length: 19 inches

Weight: 7.9 pounds

MSRP: \$334

Importer: Century Arms

Model: JW-2000

Action: Break action double barrel
with external hammers

Gauge: 12, 20

Choke: Open

Barrel Length: 20 inches

Weight: 8.1 pounds

MSRP: \$279

▲ Right side JW-2000 detail view with external hammer down. Note double triggers, lock lever, and tang safety.

tion was closed. The twin rabbit ear external hammers were hard to cock at first, but after leaving them at full cock (and unloaded) in my gun safe for a few days, they softened up.

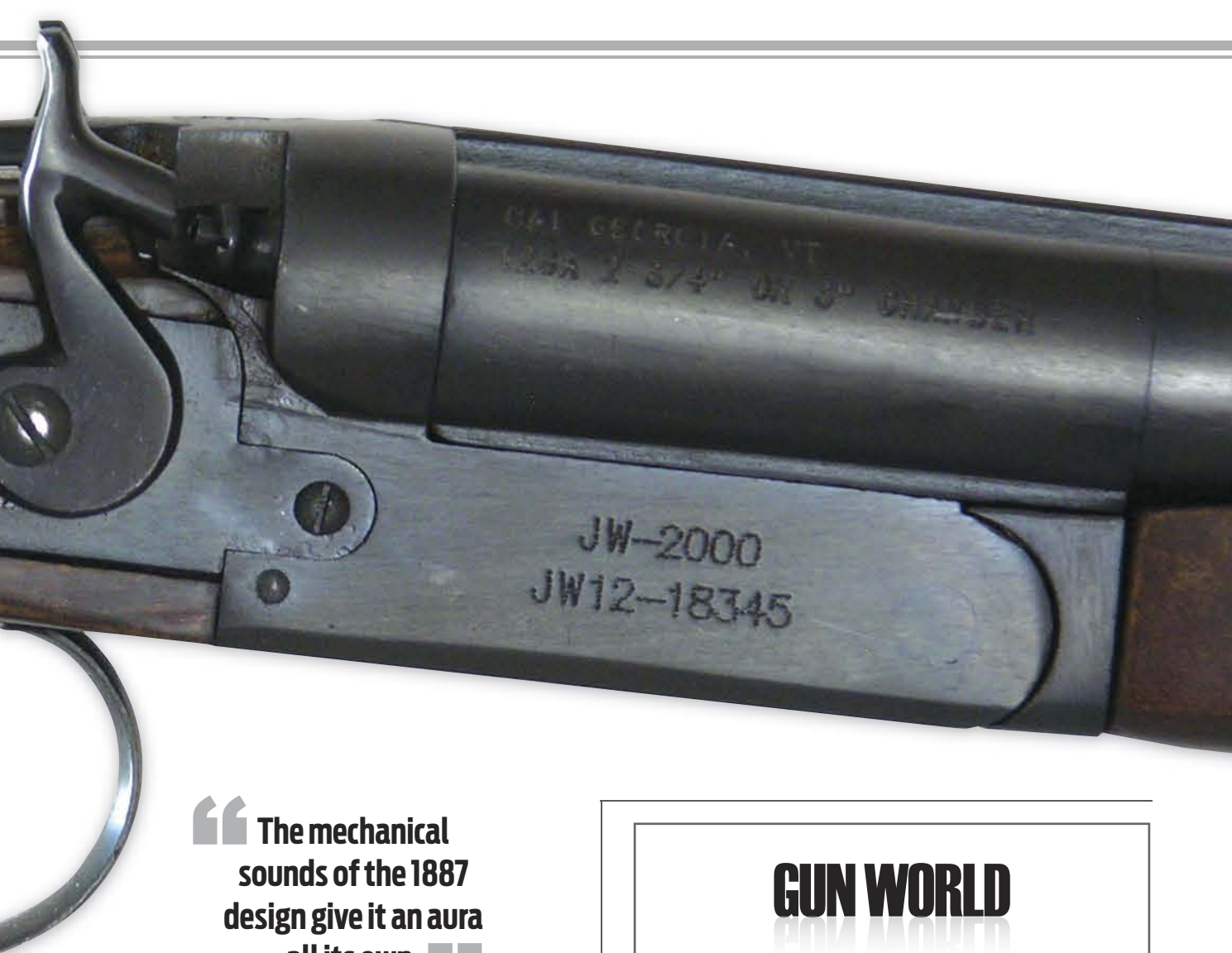
The JW-2000 digested a variety of ammunition without complaint. Like the original Old West coach shotguns, when you break the action open the JW-2000 ejector pushes the shells out slightly, allowing you to remove the spent shells by hand.

The only complaint I had was the oversized recoil pad. It was an

inch thick and felt as if it was made of stone. With my short arms, I could not shoot the JW-2000 as well as I wanted. The length-of-pull caused by the big recoil pad tortured me with an unnatural shooting position and then completed the punishment when I fired. I had to fix it.

■ PAD ME

An email to KICK-EEZ soon had a replacement pad on the way. I chose a very thin pad (5/8-inch) that I fitted up to the stock using only a cordless drill with a sanding



“ The mechanical sounds of the 1887 design give it an aura all its own. ”

disc. It took all of about fifteen minutes. Not only did the shorter length of pull make a night-and-day difference in handling for me, but the KICK-EEZ pad (despite its thinness) really absorbed the recoil. Now I am able to shoot three-inch magnum loads in relative comfort.

■ GOOD STUFF

Both of the JW-2000's barrels have open chokes, yet thanks to advanced ammunition technology, patterns were relatively tight and held together nicely. Best of all, the barrels are fit to the gun well, with

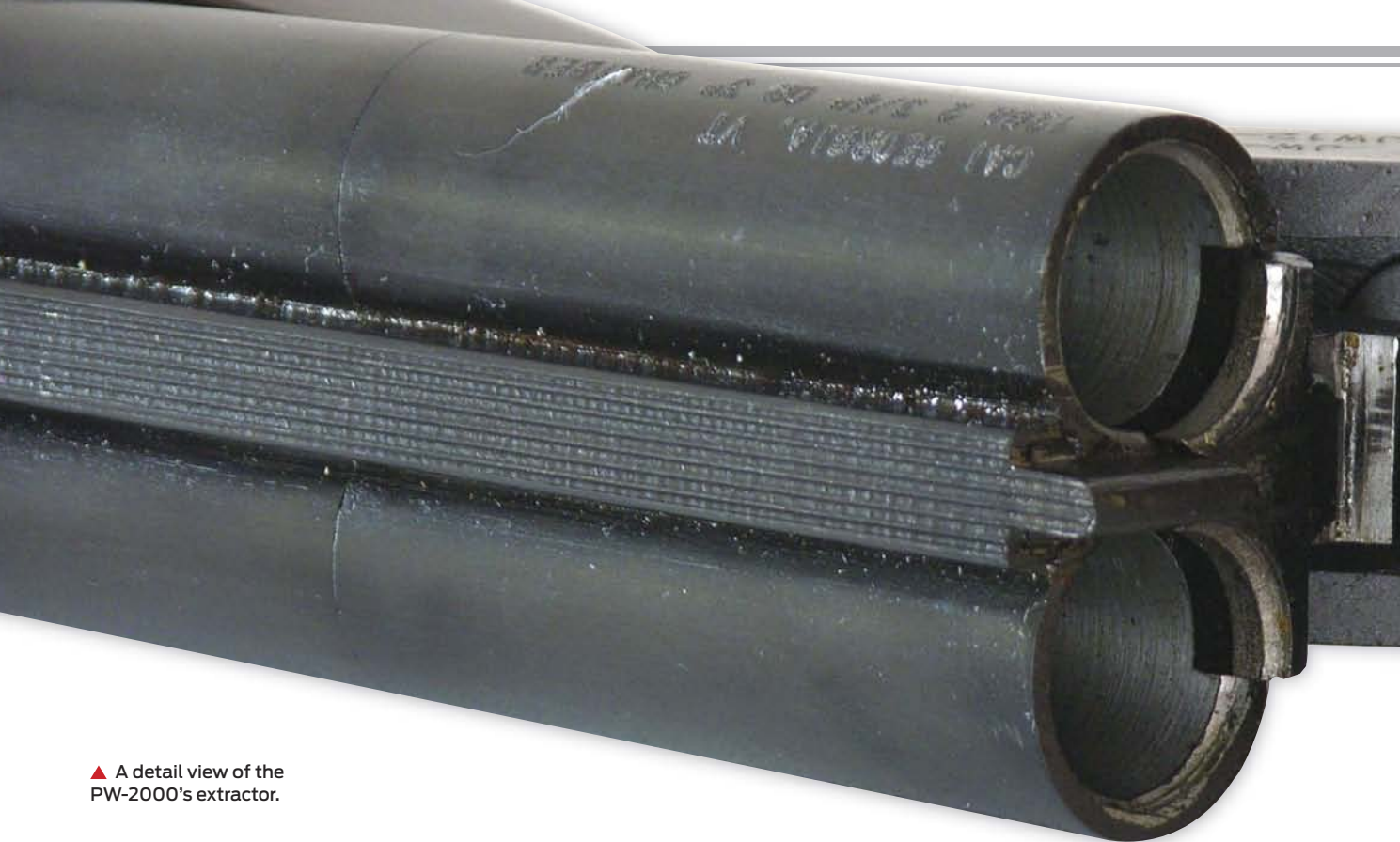
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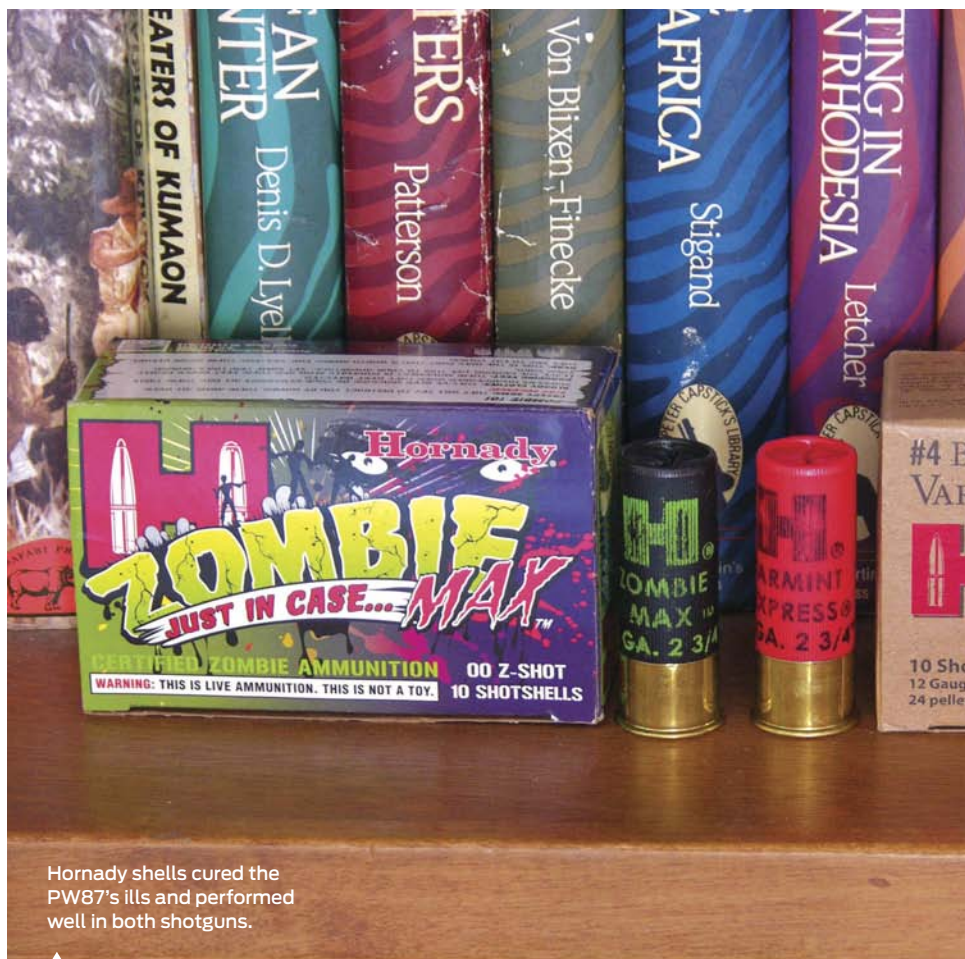
▲ A detail view of the PW-2000's extractor.

both of them hitting close to the area of aim.

The Coach Shotgun might seem a bit heavy at around eight pounds, but the weight was evenly balanced and absorbed a lot of recoil.

For hunting, plan on carrying the gun with the hammers at full-cock and the thumb safety engaged. This is as safe as carrying a hammerless double with the safety on. The advantage is that you can tell at a glance (or a touch) if the JW-2000 is cocked and ready to shoot.

Overall, I think Century International Arms has a couple of winners here. Both the PW87 and JW-2000 shoot straight and sit tall in the saddle for the cowboy inside. **GW**



Hornady shells cured the PW87's ills and performed well in both shotguns.



CONTACT

Century Arms
CenturyArms.com

Hornady Manufacturing Company
(800) 338-3220
Hornady.com

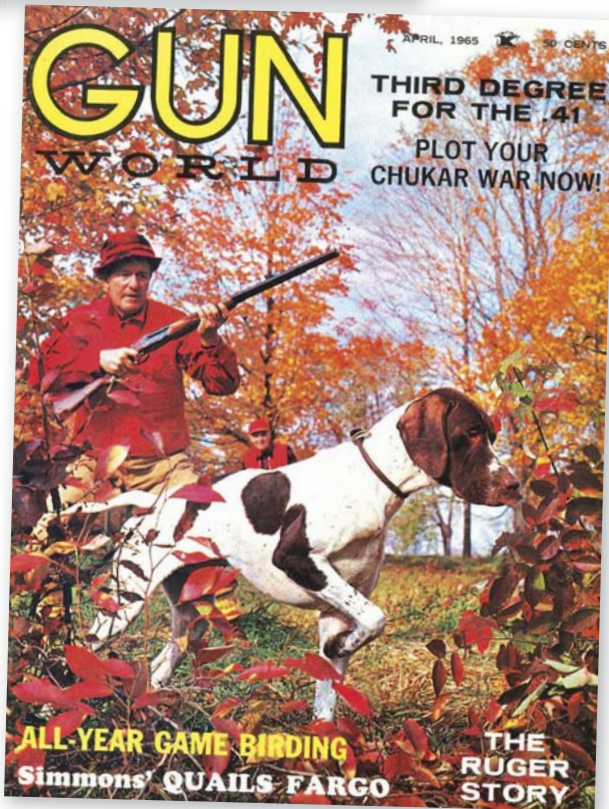
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Advertiser Index

Colt's Manufacturing Company	2	Major Surplus & Survival	23
CROSSBREED HOLSTERS	53	Rio Grande Custom Grips	57
CZ-USA	59	Rock River Arms	75
Davidson's	39	Smith & Wesson	63
Del-Ton	7	SSK Industries	85
Dillon Precision	11	Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.	3,100
GTUL	49	Tormach LLC	27
Harbor Freight	89	ULTIMAK	47
Hodgdon Powder Co.	99	Umarex USA, Inc.	69
Jantz Supply	42-43	Walther Arms	33
Les Baer Custom, Inc.	19	WILSON COMBAT	81

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▲ If it wasn't for the large Gun World logo, our colorful April 1965 cover might be easily confused with a copy of Bird Dog magazine.

The Quails

FARGO

By Craig Hodgkins

By Craig Hodgkins

Bird hunters would have found plenty to their liking in our April 1965 issue. Our colorful cover set the tone, and multiple features followed the theme, from a tongue-in-cheek take on a two-continent “chukar war” to a thoughtful piece about the growth and development of “preserve shooting.”

Not to be outdone, a firearms field test team led by editor Jim Dougherty took a twin-barrel 20-gauge Quails Fargo shotgun by Simmons through its paces on a hunt, taking a variety of upland

game birds in the process. As the man in charge, Dougherty packed the test gun.

To quote the piece, “the Simmons Gun Specialties catalog lists this recently introduced Quails Fargo model, a compact little side-by-side measuring only forty-one inches overall. It is acclaimed by Simmons as being the ‘world’s fastest scattergun,’ an interesting contention that is bound to create controversy.”

But by the end of the hunt, the well-respected Dougherty seemed

less apt to dispute the claim. Describing the side-by-side's performance during a difficult shot sequence, he said, "As I thought about it later, it came to me how quickly I had managed to get the gun into action...The combination of the short lightweight and the big Simmons rib had a great deal more to do with the hit than conditioned reflexes alone."

“I have never been able to shoot (a side-by-side) as well as a single barrel gun,” he continued, “but there was something about the comfortable feel of the Quails Fargo that gave me the impression of being unable to miss.”

“With the famous Simmons Deluxe ventilated rib and the Glow Worm sight, the gun comes up to a point as sweet as any scattergun I’ve ever handled. With the short, twenty-four inch barrels, the stock appears quite long, but in truth, it is a pretty standard fourteen inches, including the installed recoil pad (a Pachmayr White Line model).”

The gun came with a single trigger, and the barrels were choke modified and improved cylinder, which is, according to Dougherty, “a fine upland combination.” **GW**

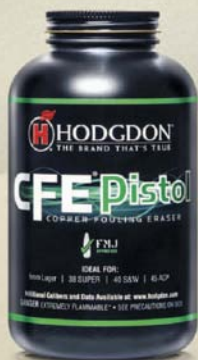


▲ The Quails Fargo manufactured by Simmons, as pictured in the company's catalog.

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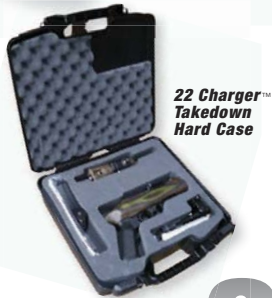
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